2001 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT





Saving Lives and Keeping Families Safe









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INSIDE THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

OUR MISSION

CPSC is responsible for protecting the American public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from 15,000 types of consumer products.

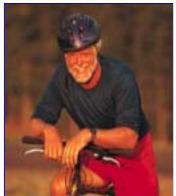
WHAT WE DO

- ★ Save the nation over \$13 billion annually in health care, property damage, and other societal costs through our work on hazards, such as children's head injuries, child poisonings, fire, carbon monoxide poisonings and electrocutions.
- ★ Complete over 300 cooperative recalls of defective products annually. In 2001, these recalls involved nearly 90 million product units.
- ★ Work cooperatively with industry and voluntary standards groups to develop safety standards. Since 1994, we have assisted in developing 145 voluntary safety standards while issuing only 26 mandatory rules over a five to one ratio of voluntary to mandatory safety standards.
- ★ Provide the public with easy access to information about product hazards and the ability to contact us through our award-winning hotline and web site. In 2001, we had over 6.3 million visits to our web site and about 200,000 calls to our hotline.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 35 and is the fifth leading cause of death in the nation.
- ★ Injuries kill more children than any disease.
- ★ Each year, there are an average of over 23,000 deaths and over 31 million injuries related to consumer products under the Commission's jurisdiction.
- ★ These injuries, deaths and associated property damage cost the American public over \$500 billion annually.







OVERVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)

CPSC's Mission: To reduce unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products and to assist consumers in evaluating the comparative safety of consumer products.

CPSC's Vision: A marketplace where consumer products are as free as reasonably possible from defects and hidden hazards; product designs minimize the potential for failure and human error; there is routine use of early warning and protection systems; state-of-the-art information technology rapidly identifies potentially hazardous products; and world safety standards are modeled on the often higher standards of the United States.

STRATEGIC GOALS Reduce Product-Related Injuries and Deaths

- Reduce the product-related head injury rate to children by 10 percent.
- Prevent any increase in the death rate to children under 5 years from unintentional poisoning by drugs or hazardous household substances.
- Reduce the fire-related death rate by 10 percent.
- Reduce the carbon monoxide poisoning death rate by 20 percent.
- Reduce the electrocution death rate by 20 percent.

Provide Quality Services to the American Public

- Increase the number of visits to CPSC's web site.
- Increase the reach of the Consumer Product Safety Review.
- Maintain the capability to respond to hotline calls.

Maintain High Levels of Customer Satisfaction with CPSC Services

- Attain 90 percent and 80 percent success with the timeliness of the Fast-Track Product Recall
 and Small Business programs, respectively, and 85 percent success with the usefulness of
 each program.
- Maintain consumer satisfaction with the hotline, Clearinghouse, and CPSC's State Partnership program at 90 percent or better.



2001 PERFORMANCE REPORT SUMMARY

- We met or exceeded most of our 2001 Performance Plan goals.
- There are no changes in long-range hazard reduction trends to note at this time based on available information.
- In successful pursuit of the 2001 plan, we made these safety advances:
 - Worked to develop or improve seven voluntary national safety standards on products including playground equipment, sprinklers, ground fault circuit interrupters, and carbon monoxide alarms:
 - ❖ Initiated and obtained 120 voluntary recalls of potentially hazardous products contributing to injury and death reductions set forth in the strategic goals. These recalls involved about 26 million product units. We also identified and corrected 559 violations of mandatory safety standards and obtained recalls of about 15 million product units. We informed the public of hazardous products through 79 press releases, 13 video news releases, 831,000 distributed publications, appearances on network TV shows, and through CPSC's consumer hotline, web site, and National Injury Information Clearinghouse; and
 - Completed several important studies to examine different product-related hazards. For example, we completed an evaluation of restraint failures on high chairs and strollers; evaluated the flammability performance of different materials and of potential health effects associated with flame retardant treatments; and continued work to develop the technical basis for a performance standard to address open flame ignitions of mattresses and bedding.
- We continue to inform the public through CPSC's communication network. Since 1997, the first full year of operation for our web site and our quarterly publication, the *Consumer Product Safety Review*, we have had a 31-fold increase in web site visits and an 11-fold increase in the readership of the *Review*. In 2001, we had 6.4 million web site visits, over 110,000 readers of the *Review*, and 200,000 callers to the hotline in 2001.
- We continue to assist industry in complying more quickly with CPSC's regulations through two successful programs: Fast Track Product Recall and Small Business Ombudsman. We maintained the timely response to industry and developed brief guides for 10 CPSC regulations so that industry can quickly and easily understand how to comply.
- We continued to disseminate safety information while maintaining high customer service standards through CPSC's hotline, Clearinghouse and State Partners Program.

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APPROACHES TO PRODUCT SAFETY

STRATEGIES

The Commission uses a variety of tools to reduce the risks of hazardous consumer products. These tools include (1) developing and strengthening voluntary and mandatory safety standards; (2) compliance activities such as recalls and corrective actions of hazardous products and enforcement of existing regulations; and (3) alerting the public to safety hazards and safe practices.

Safety Standards

Much of our work in saving lives and making homes safer is through cooperation with industry. From 1994 through 2001, we have worked cooperatively with industry and others to develop 145 voluntary standards while issuing only 26 mandatory rules, over a five-to-one ratio of voluntary to mandatory standards. We found that not only can voluntary standards be as effective as mandatory standards, they can be faster and less costly to implement.

We participate in the development of voluntary standards at a number of steps in the process. Staff first submits recommendations for new standards, or modifications of existing standards, to organizations that develop voluntary standards. These organizations provide openness, a balance of interests, and due process. The organizations complete technical work to support the requirements, publish a proposal for public comment, and publish a standard. We participate in the process by providing expert advice, technical assistance, and information based on data analyses of how deaths, injuries and/or incidents occurred. Our voluntary standards policy does not permit us to vote on proposed changes or new standards; however, our comments are considered throughout the process.

This process can take months or it may take several years. While the development of recommendations is within our span of control and the actual development of proposed standards within our span of influence, the publication and effective dates for the consensus standards are not.

Safety standards may also be developed through regulation. We usually work cooperatively with industry to develop an effective voluntary standard. If a voluntary standard exists, by law, we may issue a mandatory standard only when we find that the voluntary standard will not eliminate or adequately reduce

the risk of injury or death or it is unlikely that there will be substantial compliance with the voluntary standard.

Compliance

In 2001, CPSC announced over 1,100 corrective actions that included 342 recalls involving over 87 million consumer product units that either violated mandatory standards or presented a substantial risk of injury to the public. Although, we have neither the authority nor the resources to approve products for safety before they are marketed, if we learn that products violate mandatory safety standards or are defective so as to create a substantial risk of injury or death, we can work with companies to remove them from the marketplace.

The headquarters and field staff identify defective products through their own investigations. In addition, firms are required by law to report potential product hazards or violations of standards to the Commission. If an evaluation justifies seeking a product recall, we work with the firm to cooperatively recall the defective or violative product. In nearly all cases, firms work cooperatively with us. If a firm refuses to recall a product voluntarily, we may litigate to require a recall.

To assist industry in cooperatively recalling products and complying with our regulations easily and quickly, we rely on two activities: Fast-Track product recalls and our Small Business Ombudsman. In 1995, we developed Fast-Track program to streamline the process of recalls for firms that were willing and prepared to recall their products quickly. Because every recalled defective product represents a potential injury or death, removing these hazardous products from the marketplace faster can prevent more injuries and save more lives. Recalls under the Fast-Track program are almost three times faster than traditional recalls and, on the average, were implemented within eight days of a firm's report to CPSC.

In 1996, we established a Small Business Ombudsman to help small firms comply more easily with product safety guidelines by providing them with a single point of contact for assistance and information. The Ombudsman coordinates a clearly understandable response from our technical staff so that firms receive the information they need within three business days.

Consumer Information

We warn the public about product-related hazards through print and electronic media, our hotline and web site, and other outreach activities. We develop and provide safety information for the public through safety alerts, news releases, video news releases, publications, including the Consumer Product Safety

Review, national and local television appearances, and hotline messages. When knowledge of a hazard requires immediate warnings to the public, such as the recall of a playpen that caused the death of a baby, we rely heavily on the media (newspapers, radio, TV, video news releases). For warnings that need to be repeated -- and most do -- we often rely on outreach by partnering with other organizations and by developing programs, such as Baby Safety Showers and Recall Roundups, which are easily replicated by other organizations.

We improved our consumer hotline and Clearinghouse, and developed a web site to better serve the public. The award winning hotline receives consumer complaints and provides information on product hazards and recalls to the public. The Clearinghouse provides injury data to our staff and the public and provides manufacturers with consumer complaints, reported incidents, and incident investigations involving their products.

Our web site has grown rapidly in just three years from about 200,000 visits in 1997 to over 6.3 million visits in 2001. We post and spotlight recall notices on our web site the same day as the news release announcing the recall. Consumers and firms can file reports of unsafe products on-line and firms are ensured of confidentiality by encrypted transfer of data. Children can access a special section of the site with safety information "4 Kids" and product safety information is also available in Spanish. In September 2000, CPSC's web site received top ranking in a major study of e-government web sites.

TWO TYPES OF ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS

We engage in different types of activities that require two different types of annual goals.

For activities that address unforeseen safety issues, annual goals are more appropriately characterized as estimates. We set numerical estimates for these types of activities based on a review of five years of historical data. However, the actual number of recalls, corrective actions, and news releases responding to unpredictable events in 2003 will vary from the estimate, depending on the mix of safety-related problems arising during that year.

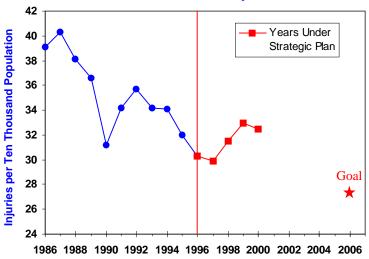
For activities that address known product hazards, annual goals are targets set for completing a certain number of activities, e.g., sending a targeted number of recommendations designed to address fire-related deaths to voluntary standards organizations.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM HEAD INJURIES

STRATEGIC GOAL: Reduce the rate of head injury to children under 15 years old by 10 percent from 1996 to 2006.





THE HAZARD

Head injury is a leading cause of death and disability to children in the United States. Almost 500 children under 15 years old die each year from head injury trauma related to consumer products. In 2000, there were an estimated 680,000 product-related head injuries to children under 15 years old treated in hospital emergency rooms, or over one-half of all head injuries. Studies have shown that children have a higher risk of head injury than adults do and that children's head injuries are often more severe than many other injuries and can have life-altering consequences.

In 2000, almost 40 percent of the head injuries to children under 15 years old were diagnosed as concussions, fractures and internal head injuries, potentially the more serious head injuries. The types of consumer products under the Commission's jurisdiction that are most often associated with head injuries to children include bicycles, playground

equipment, and nursery products. Participation in sports is also associated with high numbers of children's head injuries.

OUR PROGRESS

Head injuries to children under 15 years of age remain higher than desired when compared to the goal set for 2006. We have been successful in reducing head injuries to children for some products (e.g., baby walker-related injuries to children under 15 months of age have shown a 67 percent reduction since 1992). Many of the largest contributors to the annual toll of head injuries were recreation and sport-related activities including bicycles (49,000), baseball and softball (13,000), and swings and swing sets (12,000). We initiated work in 2001 to learn more about the circumstances of the bicycle-related head injuries to children, particularly whether or not helmets were being worn at the time of injury. In addition, we need to consider whether how we measure our progress toward our goal should take into account the number of participants in the sports involved. We are re-evaluating CPSC's role in reducing these injuries and by 2003, the Commission will decide whether to redefine our strategic goal or focus in other areas.

ANNUAL HEAD INJURY-RELATED GOALS FOR 2001

A. Safety Standards			1999	2000	2001
A-1. Send recommendations to voluntary standards organizations	Goal	**	6	2	1
	Actual	5	6	2	2
A-2. Complete testing/data collection/hazard analysis activities	Goal	**	1	3*	4
	Actual	6	1	2	3
A-3. Complete technical review activities to assess the adequacy	Goal	**	**	**	1
of voluntary standards	Actual				1

^{*}The completion of one project, Child Restraint Systems, was deferred until 2002. **No goal established.

⁻⁻ Data not available.

A-1. Prepare and send to voluntary standards organizations recommendations to strengthen or develop one voluntary safety standard.

Playground Equipment
Over 200,000 injuries
Over 68,000 head/face injuries



In 2000, CPSC staff completed a special study to identify hazard patterns involved in playground injuries occurring in home, public and daycare locations. Based on the outcome of this study, develop a voluntary standard proposal to address identified hazards.

Exceeded: In 2001, CPSC staff submitted draft proposed test methods and requirements for "tot" swings to an ASTM Home Playground Subcommittee working group. In addition, CPSC staff sent recommendations regarding use zone specifications around slides to the ASTM Public Playground Subcommittee.

Recommendations from the special study on playground injury hazard patterns were published in mid-2001. Results of this study, along with other information, will be used to support a 2002 project to develop a CPSC handbook on home playground safety and to support a 2003 project to update the CPSC Handbook on Public Playground Safety. The results of these activities will be used in support of revision to the ASTM voluntary standards, as necessary.

A-2. Complete four testing, data collection or hazard analysis activities to evaluate the need for, or adequacy of, safety standards.

Child Restraint Systems
7,800 head injuries with
strollers and high chairs



Develop and test concepts for restraint systems for effectiveness, ease of use, proper sizing and child-proofing to prevent falls primarily from strollers and high chairs. This project began in 2000.

Completed: CPSC funded a contract to evaluate child restraint systems. The contract was completed in 2001 and resulted in two reports: (1) *Product Profile Report* and (2) *Causes of High Chair and Stroller Restraint System Failure Report*. The reports present a framework for addressing the improvement of restraints for juvenile products along with general design considerations, design concepts and suggestions for improvements to voluntary standards. In 2002, staff will complete a report evaluating changes to high chair and stroller restraints based on CPSC data and the contractor reports. A meeting is planned in 2002 for industry and other interested parties to discuss contractor and CPSC staff findings.

Multi-Use Juvenile Products
Death/Injury data not available



Complete evaluations (engineering, human factors reviews and data analyses) of two or more multi-use juvenile products to determine the need for new standards or revisions to existing standards. Examples of these products include car seats that convert to infant carriers or baby swings, soft carriers that convert to infant seats, and infant high chairs that convert to youth seats. Potential hazards associated with these products include falls and entrapments.

Will complete in 2002: In 2001, staff began reviewing CPSC data files for information on incidents involving a variety of multi-use juvenile products. During this time, however, we became aware of a number of specific product safety defects with combination carriers/strollers and staff activities focused on corrective actions for these products. In 2002, staff will identify and evaluate aspects of multi-use juvenile products from a broader perspective. Staff may develop recommendations for new or revised voluntary standards, based on assessment of potential hazards associated with these products.

Sports-Related Injuries
Over 8,600 head/face
scooter-related injuries



Assess injury patterns over a number of different sports with a focus on head injury for children. Develop trends in the rate of injury using the National Sporting Goods Association's participation data and update death data.

Completed: In 2001, CPSC acquired the 1999 and 2000 National Sporting Goods Association's participation data for various sports and recreational activities. In 2001 and 2002, staff conducted a study of scooter-related injuries, which included a comparison to injuries associated with skating, skateboarding, and bicycling, sports traditionally associated with a substantial number of head injuries to children. This comparison included an assessment of injury risk for each activity relative to different measures of exposure, including participation.

Bicycle Lighting
49,000 head injuries
(includes day and night riding)



Partner with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to evaluate the effectiveness of different types of bicycle lighting. CPSC engineers will support the evaluation by providing their technical expertise in assessments of field test observations.

Completed: This is a joint project with NHTSA. CPSC staff participated in the evaluation of an innovative lighting system demonstrated as part of a NHTSA contract; the lighting system remains in the research stage. The NHTSA effort is combined with a pedestrian conspicuity project.

A-3. Complete one technical review to evaluate the adequacy of voluntary standards.

Sports Headgear
Death/Injury data not available



Monitor the progress of voluntary standards for different types of sports headgear through the approval process. During 2001, contribute technical expertise by providing assessments of issues raised by committee members, reviewing draft standards, and submitting staff comments as appropriate.

Completed: Staff provided a technical review of four voluntary standard ballots containing draft new helmet standards or revisions to existing standards. Staff also provided data and analysis reports of round robin testing to voluntary standard working groups. In addition, staff submitted recommendations to the ASTM Recreational Headgear Subcommittee asking that they examine specific provisions to address positional stability of whitewater activity helmets.

B. Compliance			1999	2000	2001
B-1. Initiate recalls and corrective actions (unregulated products)	Goal	**	15	15	20*
	Actual	14	23	24	28
B-2. Correct violations and initiate recalls (regulated products)	Goal	**	10	10	10*
	Actual	2	14	10	20
B-3. Monitor existing voluntary standards	Goal	**	2	2	2
	Actual		0	1	1

^{*}Projected goal -- the actual number of recalls and corrective actions will depend on the mix of safety-related problems arising during the year. **No goal established. --Data not available.

Identify and act on products that present a risk of head injury through:

B-1. Recalls and Corrective Actions

Pursue for recall or other corrective actions a projected 20 products that present a substantial risk of head injury.

Exceeded: We obtained 28 recalls for nearly 11 million product units that presented a substantial risk of head injury.



For example, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, we obtained two recalls of a total of over 7.5 million infant car seat/carriers. When the seat is used as an infant carrier, the handle can unexpectedly release or break. When this happens, an infant inside the carrier can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. There were nearly 3,000 reports of problems resulting in about 300 injuries, including concussions, skull fractures, broken bones, lacerations, and numerous scratches and bruises. The manufacturers will provide consumers with free repair kits or replacement handles.



We obtained two recalls of a total of nearly 1.9 million high chairs. The legs could come out of the seat, the seat could separate from the frame, or the seat could slip out of position and cause the chair to fall to the ground. There were a total of 276 incident reports including 162 injuries, such as, concussions, broken and bloody noses and lips, swollen and black eyes, and bumps and bruises. The manufacturers provided free repair kits.

B-2. *Violations and Recalls*

Identify and correct a projected 10 violations that fail mandatory safety standards that address head injury.

Exceeded: We identified and corrected 20 violations of mandatory safety standards that address child head injury. These included five recalls of about 254,000 product units.



For example, we obtained four recalls of over 250,000 bicycle and skateboard helmets that failed impact testing required under CPSC's Safety Standard for Bicycle Helmets. Riders wearing these helmets are not adequately protected from falls and could suffer severe head injuries or death. There were no reports of injuries; the recalls were conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. Consumers may return the helmets for a refund or replacement.

B-3. *Monitoring Voluntary Standards*



Monitor two existing voluntary standards likely to reduce head injuries to determine the number of firms in compliance.

Will complete in 2002: During 2001, responsibility for the conformance monitoring activities for high chairs and crib slats was transferred from the Office of Compliance to the Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction and the Commission approved the project plans.

- High Chairs The Field Office collected information from manufacturers including documentation and samples. Work was suspended for a time due to resource demands for work on mechanical hazards related to table saws and nail guns, but has resumed with tests being conducted at the Laboratory.
- Crib Slats CPSC's Field Office collected documents and samples. Work was delayed by renovations at CPSC's laboratory, but testing of the samples was completed in early 2002.



Done: We completed the toy chest monitoring project started in 2000.

• Toy chests - In 2000, the Commission contracted with State governmental organizations to screen toy chests for compliance with voluntary standard requirements for lid support, hinge clearance, locking devices, ventilation, labeling, and literature. Investigators visited 40 retail locations and screened 70 toy chests. We found that, with one exception, all of the toy chests were in compliance with the substantive requirements of the voluntary standard. We recalled one non-conforming toy chest. During our surveillance, we also screened 18 "multi-purpose" chests, but determined that these storage chests were not "toy chests" as defined by the standard.

C. Consumer Information			1999	2000	2001
C-1. Conduct public education efforts	Goal		4	4	4
	Actual	2	4	4	4
C-2. Alert the public of recalls through press	Goal		15	15	15
releases	Actual	17	19	22	19
C-3. Produce VNR for recalled product	Goal		1	5	5
	Actual	6	6	6	7
C.4. Respond to consumer requests for	Goal		150,000	160,000	160,000
publications	Actual	121,500	531,500*	287,000	252,000

^{*}Includes a one time effort to distribute publications to state and local users. --No goal established.

C-1. Issue four public alerts or warnings on:

Bicycles



Promote the use of bicycle helmets and safe bicycle-riding practices that prevent head injuries to children.

Done: Each year we conduct a number of activities to promote the use of bicycle helmets and safe riding practices to prevent these head injuries. For example, in 2001, we issued a national news release featuring the story of a boy whose helmet saved his life, despite injuries suffered when he crashed. At the state and local level, we also worked with a youth group in Ohio to promote bicycle safety and helmet use. We co-sponsored a Safety Awareness Day with a local police department to inform and encourage kindergartners to wear their helmets. Our materials were distributed to over 650 schools. We partnered with Safe Kids Coalitions and other injury prevention organizations to provide and promote bicycle safety information used in a series of bicycle events in California and Illinois. The American Automobile Association interviewed us on bicycle helmet safety for their Horizon's newsletter. This article reached 85,000 subscribers. We conducted over six TV and radio interviews on bicycle, scooter and in-line skate safety reaching over 1.3 million consumers.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)



Warn teenagers, parents and other caregivers of ATV hazards and promote the use of helmets and safe riding practices that prevent head injuries to children.

Done: We promoted ATV safety by working with local groups such as the Family Resource and Youth Service Centers of Ohio and 4H to distribute ATV safety publications and promote the use of helmets. We co-sponsored a State workshop with the West Virginia Attorney General office and various State Government officials. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the large number of deaths associated with ATVs in

West Virginia; the results of our In-depth Investigations concerning the factors involved in these deaths; and the importance of the use of helmets for safe ATV riding. Shortly after this meeting, West Virginia passed laws requiring ATV riders to wear helmets.

Infant Products



Warn parents about the hazards of older style infant products such as high chairs, baby walkers and infant carriers and inform them about the safety features of the newer style products.

Done: CPSC continued a major program to reach expectant parents and new mothers with baby safety information. We collaborated with Babies R Us and with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Primary Healthcare, to produce and distribute videotapes showing safe cribs, safe sleeping positions for babies, and other safety tips. The videos were shown in Babies R Us stores nationwide and in government-funded health clinics at the state and local level. We also worked with Freddie Mac to distribute 1,000 free cribs to new mothers who could not afford to purchase a new crib.

We conducted training with Public Health Specialists in Idaho on a program to inspect 400 daycare facilities and identify recalled products and unsafe practices. In Wisconsin, we worked with the Child Care Information Center to distribute safety information to over 8,000 daycare centers and 450 libraries through their newsletter. We continue to submit CPSC children safety articles to their newsletter.

We conducted biweekly media interviews on a California cable TV station and on a New York cable station. We wrote newsletter articles on recalled high chairs, as well as other products, for organizations and businesses such as Dow Chemical employees (50,000). We participated in a press conference sponsored by Starwood Hotels in Chicago, IL, to announce "Crib Safety Awareness Week." We were interviewed by the local television station reaching over one million viewers.

Our Consumer Information Officers made several presentations to professionals in the health care and injury prevention fields to inform them of safe practices and recalled products. We addressed public health nurses at the California SIDS Conference by presenting "Creative Safe Surroundings" for babies. We routinely met with State health departments; for example we worked with the Massachusetts Department of

Health to distribute information throughout the State.

In Seattle, Washington we routinely conducted Baby Safety Showers at the Birth Preparation Classes of Valley Medical Center. In Hawaii we addressed the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies coalition, featuring Hidden Hazards in the Home and Safe Sleep Safety Tips.

We worked to improve our Hispanic outreach by co-sponsoring a Baby Safety Shower with the San Benito County Health Department in Hollister, California. This health department serves a population that is about 98 percent Hispanic. We provided a Spanish language baby safety handbook for the county. Our Consumer Information Officers routinely conduct Spanish language media interviews in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas and the San Francisco/Oakland and Los Angeles, California area.

Recreational Activities



Warn about the need for child head protection in recreational activities such as in-line skating, skiing and snowboarding.

Done: We warned about the hazards associated with the new popularity of scooters, especially as the injuries increased dramatically during 2001, through a print news release and a video news release with a total potential viewing audience of almost 66 million. Our Western region interviewed with the Univision Network discussing scooter safety and injury data and demonstrating safety gear. The interview aired on "Pimmer Impacto Program" with an international viewing audience of 100 million.

Alert the public to the hazards of head injury through:

C-2. Press Releases

For recalled products presenting a substantial risk of head injury, initiate a projected 15 press releases to warn the public.

Exceeded: In 2001, we initiated 19 press releases to warn the public of recalled products with a substantial risk of head injury including strollers, children's bicycles, and infant high chairs.

C-3. Video News Release (VNR)

Work with the manufacturer of recalled products to produce 5 VNRs.

Exceeded: We worked with manufacturers of recalled products and produced seven video news releases that addressed potential child head injuries. These VNRs had a total potential viewing audience of over 266 million. Most of these VNRs have video clips that are viewable on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/mpeg.html.

C-4. Publications

Respond to consumer requests for a projected 160,000 checklists, booklets, and safety alerts warning about head injury hazards.

Exceeded: In 2001, we responded to requests and distributed 252,000 publications that addressed child head injury hazards. These publications are also available on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub_idx.html by topic, title, or category. The five most requested distributed publications are listed below.

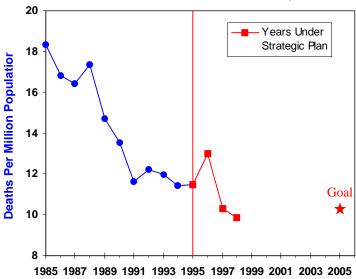




KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE FROM FIRE HAZARDS

STRATEGIC GOAL: Reduce the rate of death from fire-related causes by 10 percent from 1995 to 2005.





THE HAZARD

This nation's fire death rate remains one of the highest among industrialized nations. In 1998, over 2,600 people died and over 15,000 were injured because of fires in their homes. These fires resulted in property losses of about \$3.6 billion. The total cost to the nation from residential fires was about \$18 billion. Children and seniors are particularly vulnerable. About 700 children under the age of 15 died of fire-related causes and over 300 of these deaths were to children under the age of 5 years in 1998. In fact, children under age 5 have a fire death rate more than twice the national average. Older adults also have significantly higher fire death rates in comparison to the rest of

¹Information on residential fire-related deaths is available from several sources, including local fire departments, the states, U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System, and National Fire Protection Association. The collection and analysis of data takes about two to three years to complete.

the population. In 1998, residential fires resulted in 770 deaths to adults 65 years and older.

Products most often ignited in fire deaths are upholstered furniture, mattresses, and bedding. In recent years, these three product categories were associated with over one-third of the fire deaths. Cooking equipment is the type of equipment most often involved as a source of ignition in fire deaths, accounting for about 15 percent of fire deaths in recent years.

OUR PROGRESS

Deaths due to fire have declined substantially since the 1980s. In 1998, there were almost 1,600 fewer home fire-related deaths compared to 10 years earlier, for a fire-related death rate of 9.8 per million population. Past standard-setting and compliance activities contributed to the general decline in fires and fire deaths and show that the agency is effective in reducing fire hazards. These activities include work on cigarette-resistant mattresses and upholstered furniture, heating and cooking equipment, electrical products, general wearing apparel, children's sleepwear, child-resistant lighters, fireworks, battery-operated children's vehicles, and smoke alarms.

While the death rate for 1998 was below our strategic goal, we decided to retain our original goal through 2002 because staff believes that it is too soon to tell if the reduction in the death rate is a stable trend or simply due to year-to-year fluctuations in the data. By 2003, the Commission will decide whether to set a goal to maintain the current reduction rate or reduce the target further.

ANNUAL FIRE-RELATED GOALS FOR 2001

A. Safety Standards			1999	2000	2001
A-1. Provide candidates for rulemaking or other alternatives	Goal	**	2	1	2
	Actual	0	2	0	2
A-2. Send recommendations to voluntary standards organizations	Goal	**	8	5	6*
	Actual	7	8	3	4
A-3. Complete hazard analysis/data collection/technical feasibility	Goal	**	7	7	13#
studies	Actual	6	5	4	8

^{*}This goal was for 4 recommendations; the recommendations to Electrical Switches and Range Fires voluntary standards were deferred to 2001 in the 2000 Performance Report. *This goal was for 12 studies; the study of gas oven igniters was deferred to 2001 in the 2000 Performance Report. **No goal established.

A-1. Prepare for Commission consideration two candidates for rulemaking or other alternatives.

Upholstered Furniture

420 deaths, 1,080 injuries (includes 80 deaths and 350 injuries associated with small open flame ignition as well as additional fire deaths and injuries that could potentially be affected by an open flame ignition standard)



To address the risk of small open flame-ignited fires involving upholstered furniture, the Commission may: (a) continue the rulemaking process by issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking [NPR]; (b) work with standards-setting groups to complete a voluntary safety standard; or (c) consider other alternatives. (A Commission decision on a proposed rule planned for 1999 was deferred because of a Congressional mandate to study the safety of flame retardant chemicals that may be used in furniture fabrics to meet a standard. In 2000, we received a final report from the National Academy of Sciences and staff continued its technical research and conducted an inter-laboratory evaluation of the draft small open flame test method.)

Completed: The original performance goal was to prepare recommendations to Commission regarding a possible NPR and other options. Staff prepared a briefing package with recommendations that is currently available to the public. Staff also recommended a public meeting to allow for full discussion of the issues; possible NPR decision by end of 2002.

Clothing Textile Standard



Staff will respond to comments on a possible advance notice of proposed rulemaking and if appropriate, develop a proposed rule for Commission consideration to update the test methods in the standard for the flammability of clothing textiles. Updated test methods will more accurately represent actual use conditions and prevent dangerously flammable fabrics from reaching consumers.

Will complete in 2002: This project was deferred to 2002 in order to accommodate other higher priority Compliance activities including investigating possibly violative products, recalling potentially hazardous products, and responding to questions from industry and other entities on textile flammability issues. Staff will send a briefing package on an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2002.

Mattresses

390 deaths, 2,090 injuries (includes 80 deaths and 980 injuries associated with small open flame ignition as well as additional fire deaths and injuries that could potentially be affected by an open flame ignition standard)



From 2002 Plan: Staff will continue efforts begun in 2001 to develop a mattress standard for open flame ignition, to include proposing a recommended test method and acceptance criterion.

Completed early: We planned to complete this activity in 2002. The staff evaluated the ongoing industry research program at NIST that is defining the hazard of burning bedding igniting mattresses. CPSC supplemented this work with an interagency agreement to develop a mattress fire screening test. This small-scale, composite test is intended to give results comparable to the full-scale performance test so it can be used for enforcement and product development purposes. After a staff briefing in September 2001, the Commission initiated a rulemaking procedure to issue a standard for the open flame ignition of mattresses. The standards development process will continue through 2003.

A-2. Prepare and send to voluntary standards or code organizations recommendations to strengthen or develop four voluntary standards or codes:

Sprinklers

2,660 deaths, 15,260 injuries (Has the potential to significantly reduce these deaths/injuries)



Develop recommendations to the voluntary standards and/or building codes to address issues related to areas such as performance, design, installation and maintenance.

Completed: CPSC staff participated in the Fire Sprinkler Industry Consortium meetings, including briefing their technical contractor on CPSC work on fire sprinklers. Staff proposed amendments to National Fire Protection Association's Inspection, Maintenance and Testing of Water Based Fire Protection Systems (NFPA-25) standard with respect to recalled products and is working with the committee on the appropriate language for the code. A corrosion test chamber was acquired with U.S. Fire Administration resources for anticipated Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) round robin tests. Staff also recommended that UL consider prohibiting the use of o-rings in certain applications. When UL declined to prohibit the use of o-rings, staff participated in the UL ad hoc O-Ring Task Group to develop test methods to address o-ring failures. However, none could be developed and UL now plans to prohibit the use of o-rings.

Portable Electric Fans
10 deaths, 120 injuries



Fixed Electric Air Heaters
10 deaths, 110 injuries



Evaluate the causes of fires originating in window-mount and oscillating types of portable electric fans in 2000. In 2001, complete a review of incident data, a technical review of safety standards and laboratory testing. Based on this information, develop and submit proposals, as appropriate, to revise the voluntary standard.

Will complete in 2002: Staff began an activity to assess the adequacy of the voluntary standard for portable electric fans, UL 507 *Electric Fans*. In 2001, staff completed a market survey, assessment of incident data, and analysis of fan samples available locally at retail stores. Analysis of the samples included a human factors assessment, engineering evaluation of fan designs, and tests to determine the adequacy of standard requirements in addressing fire hazards associated with stalled rotor conditions. The report with recommendations for improvements to the standard will be forwarded to Underwriters Laboratories Inc in 2002. Completion of the report was delayed due to the need for engineering staff to complete extensive, unplanned technical evaluations of potentially hazardous extension cords.

Evaluate the causes of fires associated with fixed room air heaters in 2000. In 2001, complete a review of incident data, a technical review of safety standards and laboratory testing. Based on this information, develop and submit proposals to revise the voluntary standard, as appropriate.

Will complete in 2002: Staff initiated an activity to assess the adequacy of the voluntary standards, UL 1042 Electric Baseboard Heating Equipment and UL 2021 Fixed and Location-Dedicated Electric Room Heaters, and to recommend warranted improvements. In 2001, staff completed an economic analysis of the fixed electric heater market, epidemiological covering heating studies two seasons, laboratory experimentation, analytical studies, and an independent technical expert review on internal crimp connections in heaters. Additional, unplanned laboratory tests to investigate the effects of dust accumulation on heater performance resulted in delays in completing the technical report. A report summarizing the results of the activity, along with appropriate recommendations to improve the voluntary standards will be completed in 2002. Staff will work with Underwriters Laboratories Inc and manufacturers to implement warranted improvements.

National Electrical Code (AFCIs)

280 deaths, 1,230 injuries



Electrical Switches
100 deaths, 730 injuries (1998)

Range Fires
90 deaths, 2,650 injuries
annually from range top
cooking ignition



Support code proposals to require expanded arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protection for additional circuits in homes.

Completed: Staff attended *National Electrical Code* (*NEC*) Codemaking Panel meetings in December 2000, where we continued to recommend and provide comment on requirements for AFCI protection for older homes when the electrical service is upgraded. Such protection could protect against fires caused by electrical arcing faults. In addition, CPSC purchased AFCIs for installation in public buildings as part of an interagency agreement to obtain field test data regarding AFCI installation and use. Cooperating agencies include Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Fire Administration, U.S. Navy, and National Park Service.

From 2000 Plan: To address the fire hazard in the switch components of appliances, complete a technical review of the safety standard; conduct laboratory testing and evaluation; and develop recommendations for voluntary safety standards. Appliance fires can start in switch components when the structural parts of switches become deformed, leading to overheating.

Completed: Testing and a report were completed in 2001. The results showed no significant findings that warranted recommendations for changes to voluntary safety standards applicable to switches.

From 2000 Plan: To address the problem of range top cooking fires, CPSC staff will support the efforts of standards developers to amend the voluntary standards to include requirements for gas and electric ranges to prevent ignition of cooking materials. CPSC staff will continue to send recommendations to the voluntary standards committee, participate in the processes to revise the standards, and continue the work to identify potential methods for controlling range heat output.

Completed: This project was initiated in 1995 to address cooking fires, which have been a leading cause of product-related fires and fire injuries since the early 1990s. The goal of the project is to reduce cooking fires originating from ignition of food in a cooking utensil by modifying the range to reduce the likelihood of overheating the food to ignition.

The 2001 effort primarily consisted of two major areas: supporting development of voluntary standards requirements,

and sponsoring a contract study on the feasibility of modifying range designs to address ignition of cooking materials. The contract report indicated that there are ways to address cooking fires and staff proposed that UL establish a working group to develop requirements for the standards.

A-3. Complete twelve data analysis and technical review activities to evaluate the need for, or adequacy of, safety standards.

Residential Circuit Breakers
10 deaths, 40 injuries



Flexible Venting Material <10 deaths, <10 injuries



Study the performance of residential-type circuit breakers to determine if improvements are needed.

Will complete in 2003: Data collection and analysis, and laboratory test planning and preparation were conducted in 2001 and will continue in 2002. The test plan requires adjustable load banks to mimic residential loads. The load bank design, in coordination with a vendor, and acquisition of equipment took longer than anticipated, extending into late 2001. Limited laboratory testing of panel boards will begin in the second quarter of 2002. This work has a 2 to 3 year project plan, depending on the availability of field samples and the results of laboratory testing.

Complete analysis of the role of flexible venting materials in house fires and determine the scope of its use. Complete a review of current standards for adequacy to prevent separation or material failure.

Completed: In 1999, CPSC recalled 22,000 direct vent gasfired fireplaces due to separation of the flexible vents from the termination kit where the vent penetrated an exterior wall. This condition resulted in hot products of combustion impinging on, and igniting, wall materials. Following the recall, new requirements for vented fireplace heaters, vented gas fireplaces and vented gas-fired heating appliances were established. In 2001, staff completed a review of available incident data to determine the adequacy of the requirements in the voluntary standards, as well as requirements for the flexible venting material. The data did not indicate a need for additional work in this area.

Fail-Safe Design

Death/Injury data not available

Complete analysis and redesign of a consumer product that presents a serious fire hazard when it fails. The redesign will demonstrate the use of "fail-safe" principles to reduce the fire hazard.

New Approach: At midyear of 2001, the Commission approved a Sensor Technology activity that will carry into 2002. The project is much broader in scope and will encompass the objectives of the Fail Safe Design activity. The primary objectives of the Sensor Technology activity are to identify sensor technologies in the industrial, defense and space sectors, and determine the applicability of these technologies in reducing hazards to consumers.

Complete an evaluation of the effects that power interruption may have on the proper operation of controls for gas-fired appliances.

Completed: Automatic gas controls include safety-related components and normal operational components that control the flow of gas to gas-fired furnaces. Failures of automatic gas controls can result in fire, explosion, and carbon monoxide hazards. In 2001, staff reviewed available incident data to identify instances of gas control failures and determine possible failure mechanisms. The data did not indicate a need for additional work in this area.

Complete evaluation of the role of various electrical components (such as batteries, electrical connection methods, and metal oxide varistors in surge suppressors) in contributing to the fire hazard associated with appliances. Complete a technical review of applicable safety standards and laboratory testing and evaluation.

Completed: Completed a report on a preliminary analysis of standard sizes of secondary (rechargeable) batteries and chargers. The CPSC laboratory conducted testing of new and older types of AA-size batteries, including rechargeable batteries, to better understand the capabilities of newer batteries and how they perform when used in consumer products. The findings from this exploratory work did not indicate a need for changes to any related battery standards.

Operating Controls

Death/Injury data not available



Electrical Components 520 deaths, 5,580 injuries

Gas-Fired Water Heaters 10 deaths, 320 injuries



Mattresses

390 deaths, 2,090 injuries (includes 80 deaths and 980 injuries associated with small open flame ignition as well as additional fire deaths and injuries that could potentially Be affected by an open flame ignition standard)



Standard Fire Indicators

Death/Injury data not available

Monitor the development of new products that reduce the risk of flammable vapor ignition from spilled gasoline or solvents. These fires have resulted in deaths and serious burn injuries.

Completed: CPSC staff has participated in a major revision of the ANSI standard for water heaters to include test methods for flammable vapor ignition resistance and resistance to lint accumulation. The revised standard will be effective on March 1, 2003. In 2001, staff monitored the development of technologies to meet this revised standard that will result in major changes in the design of residential water heaters. This process is ongoing.

Staff will participate in the development of a test method to address small open flame ignition of mattresses and bedding. In 1997, there were 120 deaths from ignition of mattresses and bedding by small open flame sources such as lighters, matches, and candles. In 2000, staff evaluated an industry-sponsored study to assess the effectiveness of alternative fire control strategies and the need for standards to address them.

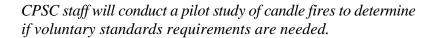
Completed: The staff evaluated the ongoing industry research program at NIST that is defining the hazard of burning bedding igniting mattresses. CPSC supplemented this work with an interagency agreement to develop a mattress fire screening test. This small-scale, composite test is intended to give results comparable to the full-scale performance test so it can be used for enforcement and product development purposes. The development of this test method was completed in 2001.

In FY 2001, staff will begin a laboratory study of the performance of standard fire indicators currently used in voluntary standards. Data from this study will be used to establish heat flux ranges that affect fire risk to determine the adequacy and variability of current fire indicators used to assess the likelihood of consumer products igniting household combustibles. Heat flux ranges will be quantifiable and can be used to develop a better-controlled, more repeatable test method to be proposed for use in the voluntary standards.

New Approach: The original project plan included fire indicator testing to be conducted at the CPSC laboratory. Due to resource and time limitations, CPSC staff decided that it was more cost effective to contract this work to an outside laboratory. In 2001, a contract was let to the University of Maryland to conduct cone calorimetry tests to measure the heat

transfer rates (heat flux) required to cause pyrolysis (discoloration, charring, and ignition) of standard fire indicators and of household combustibles (blankets, paper towels, facial tissue, etc.). Due to time constraints based upon the University of Maryland academic schedule, work will be completed in 2002.

Candles
170 fire deaths, 1,200 fire injuries





Completed: The pilot study was completed in late 2001. This study evaluated whether alternative sources of information about fires could provide the type of data needed by CPSC staff to develop voluntary standards recommendations. The pilot study indicated that the alternative sources did not provide as much information as CPSC's investigative reports. The full study will be completed in 2002, based on CPSC investigative reports.

Cigarette Lighters
70 deaths, 480 injuries

CPSC published a mandatory standard, which became effective in 1994, to require disposable cigarette lighters to be childresistant. In FY 2000, CPSC staff completed an evaluation of the effectiveness of the cigarette lighter standard. Staff will review the evaluation's findings to determine if amendments to the standard are needed.



Completed: In 2001, staff evaluated the findings of the study and determined that amendments to the standard were not needed. The study found that the standard has led to dramatic decreases in fires, deaths and injuries. For 1998 alone, the study estimated that the standard prevented 4,800 fires, 130 deaths, 950 injuries and \$76.4 million in property damage, with total societal savings estimated at \$773.9 million Additional savings are anticipated in subsequent years.

Smoke Alarms
2,660 deaths, 15,260 injuries
(Has the potential to significantly

CPSC is coordinating a research project begun in FY 2000 to evaluate the performance of today's smoke alarm technologies. Full-scale tests, funded by several federal agencies and a private organization, began in FY 2000 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and will continue in FY 2001. CPSC staff anticipates using results from this work to identify potential improvements in performance/installation requirements, test methods, alarm technology for residential applications and consumer information. Analysis of the test results and development of recommendations will begin in FY 2002.



Completed: NIST began evaluating the effectiveness of current and emerging smoke alarm technologies in responding to the most common serious residential fires and in resisting the most common causes of nuisance alarms. This work is funded for two years by the U.S. Fire Administration, Centers for Disease Control, Housing and Urban Development, CPSC, and Underwriters Laboratories. Initial full-scale tests were completed in a manufactured home and two-story brick home with upholstered furniture, mattress, and cooking oil fires. Data analysis is underway. CPSC staff also began developing criteria for evaluating the effect of irritant gases on a person's ability to escape.

Table Top Cooking Appliances

<1 death per year



The use of table top grills is associated with potential fire and burn hazards. In 2001, staff will conduct a technical review of incidents and perform laboratory testing of butane and gas tabletop grills. Based on an evaluation of the results, staff will determine if there is a need to make recommendations to improve the safety performance requirements of the voluntary standard.

Will complete in 2002: In 2001, staff conducted a technical review of incidents and performed laboratory testing of butane and gas table top stoves. Completion of testing was delayed due to high priority work on camping heaters and other project activities and due to the installation of upgraded equipment in the laboratory burn room. In early 2002, staff will determine if there is a need to make recommendations to improve the safety performance requirements of the applicable voluntary standards.

Gas Oven Igniters
Death/Injury data not available

From 2000 Plan: To address the risk of fires and explosions from delayed ignitions, complete a technical review of the standard and conduct laboratory testing and evaluation.

Will complete in 2002: In 2001, staff completed accelerated aging tests and completed tests on some gas oven samples. Work had to be suspended because the CPSC burn room facility was occupied by higher priority work on table top cooking appliances and electric heaters. Testing will resume and the evaluation will be completed in 2002.

B. Compliance			1999	2000	2001
B-1. Initiate recalls and corrective actions (unregulated	Goal	**	50	55	55*
products)	Actual	60	74	60	76
B-2. Correct violations and initiate recalls (regulated products)	Goal	**	350	400	450*
	Actual	534	627	469	526
B-3. Monitor existing voluntary standards	Goal	**	1	1	2
	Actual	1	2	1	1
B-4. Conduct import surveillance	Goal	**	1	2	2
	Actual	1	2	2	3

^{*}A projected goal -- the actual number of recalls and corrective actions will depend on the mix of safety-related problems arising during the year.

Identify and act on products that present a risk of fire-related death through:

B-1. Recalls and Corrective Actions

Pursue for recall or other corrective actions a projected 55 products that present a substantial risk of fire-related death.

Exceeded: We obtained 76 recalls involving over 12 million product units that presented a substantial risk of fire-related death.



For example, CPSC obtained a recall of 3.1 million dishwashers. The dishwashers have a slide switch that can melt and ignite, presenting a fire hazard. CPSC is aware of approximately 90 incidents associated with these dishwashers. Consumers will receive free repair from technicians who will rewire the slide switch, eliminating it from the electrical circuit and thereby eliminating the fire risk. There was an initial recall in 2000; the 2001 recall significantly changed the remedy.



CPSC obtained a recall of nearly 3 million candles. These candles can burn with a high flame, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers. There were seven reports of candles burning with high flames resulting in minor burns to consumers. Consumers may return candles to retailer for a refund or store credit and \$5 coupon.

B-2. *Violations and Recalls*

Identify and correct a projected 450 violations that fail mandatory fire safety standards.

Exceeded: We identified and corrected 526 violations relating to products that failed mandatory fire safety standards. Of these, we obtained 24 recalls involving almost 15 million product units.

For example, CPSC obtained a recall of about 13 million

disposable lighters. The lighters' child-resistant mechanisms are frequently ineffective. There was the case in a report of a 4-year-old girl who died after starting a fire with a lighter and then hid in a closet. The fire caused an estimated \$72,000 in damages. In another incident, two brothers, a 4-year-old and a 6-year-old, reportedly ignited clothing and paper inside a car while playing with one of these lighters causing about \$1,500 in damages. They were not injured. Consumers can return the lighters to the store where purchased for a refund.

B-3. *Monitoring Voluntary Standards*

Monitor two existing voluntary standards likely to reduce fire-related deaths to determine the number of firms in compliance.

Done in Part: We conducted domestic retail surveillance of halogen torchiere lamps. During 2000 and carrying over into 2001, CPSC staff evaluated industry conformance with Underwriter Laboratories (UL) voluntary standard for torchiere lamps, UL 153. The standard requires (1) maximum 300 watt bulb, (2) factory installed guard, (3) specific distances from bulb glass shell to any point on the guard, (4) certain size openings in the guard, and (5) a halogen torchiere lamp with a flexible or articulated arm requires a tip-over switch.

Investigators inspected a total of 49 retailers nationwide to determine if lamps conforming to the voluntary standard were being offered for sale. Results showed 12 retailers no longer offered the lamps for sale. Samples were collected representing 14 importers or domestic manufacturers. Sixty-three percent (63 percent) of the samples complied with the new UL voluntary standard. Of the nonconforming samples, all were manufactured prior to the effective date of the standard.

Although not a statistical study, the halogen torchiere lamp voluntary standard monitoring effort shows a decrease in

nonconforming product entering the marketplace after June 1, 1999. Further, it provided a mechanism to disseminate information about the standard to many smaller retailers and importers. Staff recommended that the commission consider a monitoring program in the future to evaluate continued conformance.

B-4. Import Surveillance

Conduct port-of-entry surveillance for two products for which fire safety standards are in effect.

Done: We conducted port-of-entry surveillance for cigarette lighters, multipurpose lighters, and fireworks.



CPSC's safety standard requiring child resistance in disposable and some novelty cigarette lighters became effective in July 1994. CPSC and the U.S. Customs Service continue to closely enforce these requirements. In 2001, we sampled and evaluated 270 shipments of about 109 million cigarette lighters, seized 226 shipments and prevented 6.2 million noncomplying cigarette lighters from entering the country. We sampled and evaluated 16 shipments of 800 thousand multipurpose lighters; seized 9 shipments and prevented 670 thousand multipurpose lighters from entering the country.



To assure compliance with fireworks regulations, we targeted imported fireworks. CPSC and the U.S. Customs Service selectively sampled and tested 352 shipments containing 38.4 million fireworks. We found that 117 shipments violated CPSC's mandatory safety requirements. These shipments accounted for 7.6 million units presenting violations serious enough to warrant seizure or other action by the U.S. Customs Service on our behalf to prevent entry of the shipments into the U.S. CPSC is continuing its efforts to ensure that fireworks comply with agency regulations.

C. Consumer Information		1998	1999	2000	2001
C-1. Conduct public education efforts	Goal	**	6	5	6
	Actual	4	6	5	6
C-2. Alert the public of recalls through press	Goal	**	35	45	45
releases	Actual	43	57	48	46
C-3. Produce VNR for recalled product	Goal	**	2	5	5
	Actual	7	7	8	5
C.4. Respond to consumer requests for	Goal	**	150,000	160,000	160,000
publications	Actual	180,000	451,500*	222,000	259,500

^{*}Includes a one time effort to distribute publications to state and local users. **No goal established.

C-1. Issue six public alerts and warnings on:

Fireworks



Conduct the annual campaign for the Fourth of July holiday season to alert consumers to the common hazards associated with legal and illegal fireworks. The campaign includes a news conference to demonstrate the hazards; announcements of fireworks recalls; and publication of injury prevention tips. Develop and conduct a safety campaign to promote safe use of fireworks and to prevent fireworks-related injuries and deaths throughout the nation during millennium celebrations.

The campaign began on July 4, 1999 and will continue through New Year's Day 2001. The campaign will focus particularly on the July 4 and New Year's Eve celebrations, when we expect the use of fireworks to increase. To maximize the reach of this effort, we invited a broad range of national organizations and state health and safety agencies to join us as partners. This has already resulted in a fireworks safety brochure that has received wide distribution.

Done: CPSC held the annual fireworks news conference on the National Mall, issued a print news release and broadcast a video news release, which had a potential television viewing audience of almost 11 million. We also distributed about 6,500 copies of the CPSC fact sheet on fireworks. After the millennium celebrations around New Year's Day 2001, we completed our distribution of a special brochure on fireworks. Our focus returned to the 4th of July when most of the injuries occur.

Home Heating



Halloween Hazards



Issue safety information designed to give consumers information related to home electrical system inspections, fuel-fired heating equipment, coal and woodstoves, and smoke alarms.

Done: Field staff provided safety information by participating in TV and radio interviews on home heating safety, including an on-camera interview in Spanish with Univision, and interviews with several radio stations around the country, such as Illinois, North Dakota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas. We also continued to alert the public to the hazards of various recalled furnaces. For example, staff attended a conference of the California Real Estate Inspectors Association and a group of homeowner associations and made a presentation on the hazards of Consolidated Furnaces. This brand of furnace is plentiful in California and was recalled because it can cause fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. Staff targeted 10 newspapers throughout the western states to alert consumers to the potential dangers associated with Cadet and Encore wall heaters. These heaters were distributed mainly in the western states.

Warn about the dangers of children's costumes catching on fire from candles, matches, or cigarette lighters.

Done: CPSC issued our seasonal Halloween safety news release and re-broadcast a video news release about the fire hazard of costumes. The VNR reached over 4 million television viewers. Around the country, staff was interviewed at a number of radio stations on Halloween safety, including stations in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Texas. We provided tips on safe costumes to a California Childhood Injury Control Conference, as well as CPSC's Halloween Safety Alert to about 300 attendees who were health educators, nurses, physicians and other public health experts working at the state and local levels. We provided CPSC's Halloween Safety Alert to a number of state and local organizations, including all students in the Delaware schools where the Alert was given out in Halloween bags.

Holiday Hazards



Cigarette Lighters



Warn about the risk of fire from decorative light strings and natural trees, as well as provide information on the safe use of candles and fireplaces.

Done: We issued a national news release about safety with electric decorative lights and other holiday decorations. At the state and local level, staff participated in media interviews on toy and holiday safety including an on-camera interview by satellite with Telemundo Network in Florida; television interviews in Arkansas, Georgia, and New Jersey; radio interviews at stations in Florida, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Texas; and interviews with newspaper reporters on toy safety such as the Cleveland Plain Dealer (circulation of 390,000). Other activities included holding a joint holiday safety news conference with the Oakland Fire Department which focused on holiday fire safety; speaking at a holiday news conference sponsored by the Los Angeles Safe Kids coalition on recalled and dangerous toys; and providing holiday safety information to the Arkansas Energy Office, a public utility, for use in their December monthly safety meeting.

Warn about the risk of fire from children under 5 years playing with cigarette lighters and multi-purpose lighters. Both cigarette and multi-purpose lighters are required to incorporate child resistant features to help prevent their operation by children under age 5.

Done: Noting a 43 percent reduction in deaths from lighter fires, CPSC issued a news release emphasizing the effectiveness of the standard for child-resistant cigarette lighters. At the state and local level, staff provided information on recalled lighters to various organizations, including the City of Chicago to assist in their prosecution of retailers selling lighters that were not child-resistant; provided guidance on cigarette fire regulations to management, inspection and enforcement personnel at local fire departments in California; and presented information on cigarette lighters at the Safe Kids annual conference in Georgia. Of particular note, we held a state press conference with the Arkansas State Fire Marshals and Second District's US Congressman Vic Snyder to discuss unsafe recalled products that can result in a fire. The majority of the time was spent on hazardous novelty lighters without child-resistant mechanisms. Congressman Snyder, previously a practicing pediatrician in the Little Rock area, added appropriate highlights to the Conference with examples of tragic burns of children he had treated. This event was reported

in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. Attending the conference were all three major television stations, (KATV, KARK, KTHV), the Arkansas Radio Network reporter, and two newspapers. It is estimated that 72 radio stations received the news story.

Recall Round-Up



As part of the annual Recall Roundup campaign, encourage consumers to dispose of old electrical products that have a high risk of fire.

Done: As part of the annual Recall Round-Up, CPSC included old electrical appliances, such as, halogen torchiere lamps, toasters, and children's lamps, that can cause fires. The print news release and the video news release, which had a television audience of over 70 million, were widely used by the media. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories had activities publicizing the need to remove these dangerous recalled products from consumers' homes.

Alert the public to fire-related hazards through:

C-2. Press Releases

For recalled products presenting a substantial risk of firerelated deaths, initiate an estimated 45 press releases.

Exceeded: In 2001, we initiated 46 press releases to warn the public of recalled products with a substantial risk of fire including night lights, coffee makers, and children's costumes.

C-3. Video News Releases (VNR)

Complete five VNRs, including: (1) for at least one recalled product, work with the manufacturer of the product to produce a VNR; and (2) produce VNR for the fireworks safety campaign.

Exceeded: We worked with manufacturers of recalled products and produced four video news releases that addressed potential fire hazards. We also produced a video news release for the fireworks safety campaign. These VNRs had a total potential viewing audience of almost 137 million. Most of these VNRs have video clips that are viewable on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/mpeg.html.

C-4. Publications

Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 160,000 checklists, booklets, and safety alerts warning about fire-related hazards.

Exceeded: In 2001, we responded to requests and distributed 259,500 publications that addressed fire-related hazards. These publications are also available on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub_idx.html by topic, title, or category. The five most requested distributed publications are listed below.

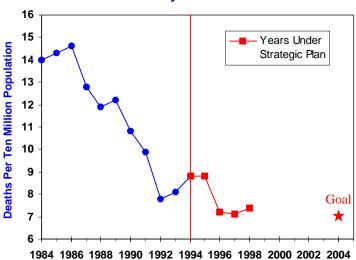




KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE FROM ELECTROCUTIONS

STRATEGIC GOAL: Reduce the rate of death from electrocutions by 20 percent from 1994 to 2004.

Electrocution Rates for Consumer Products, by Year



THE HAZARD

There are about 190 deaths from consumer product-related electrocutions each year in the United States. About 10 percent of the deaths are to children under 15 years old. The Commission continues to receive reports of electrocution deaths from products such as house wiring, lamps and light fixtures, antennas, power tools, and small and large appliances.

OUR PROGRESS

In 1998, the latest year for which data are available, deaths from electrocutions had declined to 7.4 deaths per 10 million people, or almost 100 fewer deaths annually since 1988. Reducing these deaths is the result, in part, of several efforts by CPSC. We worked with industry to develop safety standards that reduced or nearly eliminated the risk of electrocution for such products as hair dryers, power tools, CB antennas, and electric toys. CPSC has been instrumental in upgrading the National

Electrical Code to provide for wider application of the highly effective electric shock protectors known as ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs).

While the electrocution rate for 1998 was near our strategic goal, we decided to retain the original goal through 2002 for two reasons. First, staff believes that it is too soon to tell if the reduction in the electrocution rate is a stable trend or simply due to year-to-year fluctuations in the data. Second, beginning in January 1999, there was a major change in the way deaths are classified in the United States. Preliminary information provided by NCHS suggested that the trend analysis for electrocutions generally may be unaffected by changed in the classification of deaths. While these results are encouraging, we cannot be sure that the performance data for electrocution is unaffected until more specific analyses are completed.

By 2003, after we examine the stability of the trend in deaths and determine how the coding changes affect the data, the Commission will decide whether to set a strategic goal to maintain the current reduction in the death rate, reduce the target further, or focus in other areas.

ANNUAL ELECTROCUTION-RELATED GOALS FOR 2001

A. Safety Standards			1999	2000	2001
A-1. Send recommendations to voluntary standards organizations	Goal	**	2	1	2
	Actual	0	2	1	2
A-2. Send recommendations to national code groups	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	1	1	1	1
A-3. Complete hazard assessments	Goal	**	**	**	3
	Actual				1

⁻⁻Data not available. **No goal established.

A-1. Prepare and send to voluntary standards organizations recommendations to strengthen or develop two voluntary standards:

Large Appliances (Protective Devices)

37 deaths



To address the hazard of electrocutions, develop recommendations to voluntary standards that would require built-in shock protection, improved grounding, or improved insulation systems for products such as large appliances and air conditioners. These products accounted for approximately 16 percent of consumer product-related electrocutions in 1997.

Completed: In 2001, staff supported a *National Electrical Code (NEC)* proposal for leakage current detection interrupters or arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) for air conditioner power cords to prevent fires associated with power cord failures, or leakage current caused by some internal faults that could result in a potential shock hazard. The proposal was adopted as a requirement for the 2002 edition of the *NEC*.

In addition, staff reviewed standards for generators used by consumers as sources of emergency standby electrical power with regard to methods of connecting a generator output into the house wiring system. Installation instructions and the use of a transfer switch were the focus of discussion with standards developers and utilities. The first edition of a new UL standard (UL 2200), covering stationary engine generator assemblies was published. CPSC prepared safety information for consumers when using an electric generator around the home.

To increase the number of working GFCIs, develop and submit recommendations to the voluntary standard for an effective indicator so consumers can determine whether the GFCI is functioning properly.

Completed: To support standard development and improve GFCI reliability, CPSC staff made proposals to add requirements for auto testing with indicators, power lockout, and auto testing with power lockout to the UL Standards Technical Panel (STP) for GFCIs. In 2002, the STP will review these proposals.

(GFCIs)
115 deaths



A-2. Provide recommendations to national code groups:

National Electrical Code 27 deaths

Support code proposals to require enhanced (fail-safe) GFCIs in specific circuits (e.g., outdoor outlets) that present the highest risk of electric shock or electrocution.

Completed: In 2001, staff supported a proposal to the National Electrical Code (NEC) for the use of enhanced GFCIs – ones that prevent restoring power when the GFCI is tested and it fails – in high-risk locations, such as outdoor circuits. Although the recommendation was not adopted by the NEC at this time, the data developed to support this proposal was also helpful in supporting a revision to the voluntary standard to address GFCI resistance to the effects of wet locations.

A-3. Complete three testing, data collection, or hazard analysis activities.

Lamps
6 deaths (work lamps)



Fail-Safe Design
Death/Injury data not available

Complete analysis of clamp lamps with ungrounded metaclamps and reflectors, hand-held lamps (often referred to as trouble lamps) and other work lights and appliances to determine the applicability of shock preventive designs.

Completed: In 2001, staff completed an assessment of the potential electrocution hazard associated with work lamps. The focus of the review was to determine whether there were technical strategies that could be employed to reduce the incidence of electrocution associated with these products. A review of incident data suggested that deaths involving these products were related to maintenance of the product and that there was no pattern of failure that could be addressed by revisions to the standard at this time.

Complete analysis and redesign of a product that presents an electrocution hazard when it fails. The redesign will demonstrate the use of "fail-safe" principles to reduce the electrocution hazard.

New Approach: At midyear of 2001, the Commission approved a new Sensor Technology activity that will carry into 2002. This project is much broader in scope and will encompass the objectives of the Fail Safe Design activity. The primary objectives of the Sensor Technology activity are to identify technologies and to determine the applicability of these technologies in reducing hazards to consumers.

GFCIs

115 deaths

Complete technical review of enhanced GFCIs that incorporate a status indicator. These indicators increase protection from electrocution by allowing consumers to determine whether or not the device is working properly.

Will complete in 2002: A prototype GFCI was not available from the manufacturer until the 4th quarter of 2001. The prototype incorporates indicators to remind the consumer to test every 30 days; it also provides indication if the device is nonfunctional. Staff completed testing in 2001 and will complete an assessment of the test results and make recommendations for additional improvements in 2002.

B. Compliance		1998	1999	2000	2001
B-1. Initiate recalls and corrective actions	Goal	**	20	25	15*
	Actual	38	24	21	13
B-2. Monitor existing voluntary standards	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	1	1	1	1

^{*}Projected goal -- the actual number of recalls and corrective actions will depend on the mix of safety-related problems arising during the year. **No goal established.

Identify and act on products that present a risk of electrocution through:

B-1. Recalls and Corrective Actions

Pursue for recall or other corrective action an estimated 15 products that present a substantial risk of electrocution.

The number of violations and recalls identified and corrected was somewhat less than our estimate of 15. However, it is agency policy to set numerical estimates, not firm targets, for violations and recalls. Because this activity addresses unforeseen safety issues, our numerical estimate is set each year based on historical data. The actual number of violations and recalls we identified in 2001 depended on the mix of safety-related problems that occurred during the year.

We pursued for recall or other corrective action 13 products that presented a substantial risk of electrocution. There were a total of 12 recalls involving about 3.2 million product units.





B-2. *Monitoring Voluntary Standards*



For example, CPSC obtained a recall of about 829,000 battery chargers for repair. Metal clips inside the chargers could come loose and stick through the chargers' vents, possibly resulting in consumers receiving an electrical shock. There were no reports of injuries with these chargers. The recall was conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. Consumers could take them to a service center for a free repair.

CPSC obtained a recall of about 532,000 extension cords and cord reels equipped with a locking plug, which is designed to keep tools plugged in. The plastic housing of the locking plug can separate or break, exposing consumers to live wires and posing shock and electrocution hazards. There were three reports of the plug housing separating or breaking. No injuries have been reported. Consumers could receive a replacement extension cord or cord reel.

Monitor one existing voluntary standard to determine the number of firms in compliance.

Done: In 2000 and carrying over into 2001, we performed retail surveillance of UL listed and non-UL listed holiday lights. Over the last few years CPSC, in cooperation with U.S. Customs, has conducted holiday light surveillance at the import level. The lights were evaluated to three specific criteria taken from the UL voluntary standard. These tests determined the wire size, the amount of force needed to pull the wire out of the plug ends and bulb sockets, and determining if the lights were equipped with a fuse. These efforts have identified a large number of holiday light imports that present substantial product defects. Working with Customs, these imports were denied entry into the United States.

One hundred and eighty (180) samples were collected. One hundred and fifty two (152) were UL labeled representing 60 different UL listings and 33 different retailers. Analysis showed 95 percent of the UL labeled lights conform to the UL standard compared to 32 percent of the non-UL lights. The results were statistically significant and staff recommended that we focus resources in the future on low quality, imported holiday lights that do not bear the UL label or lights which appear to contain counterfeit UL labels.

C. Consumer Information		1998	1999	2000	2001
C-1. Conduct public education efforts	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	0	1	1	1
C-2. Alert the public of recalls through press	Goal	**	8	8	8
releases	Actual	8	13	11	9
C-3. Produce VNR for recalled product	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	0	1	2	0
C.4. Respond to consumer requests for publications	Goal	**	40,000	45,000	45,000
-	Actual	47,500	88,000*	83,000	80,000

^{*}Includes a one time effort to distribute publications to state and local users.

Alert the public to electrical hazards through:

C-1. Recall Roundup



As part of the annual Recall Roundup campaign, encourage consumers to dispose of old electrical products that have a high risk of electrocution as part of our annual recall roundup safety campaign.

Done: CPSC's Recall Round-Up campaign dealt with fire hazards and electrocution hazards from various products. More than 2,000 fire departments around the U.S. agreed to cooperate with CPSC by distributing the Recall Round-Up list and, in some cases, by serving as a drop-off point for hazardous products returned by consumers. Among the products on the Recall Round-Up list were old electric hair dryers that do not have a built-in ground fault circuit interrupter. These old hair dryers could lead to electric shock. Over 70 million viewers saw the video news release; the print news release was reprinted in many newspapers.

C-2. Press Releases

Initiate an estimated eight press releases to advise the public of recalled products with a substantial risk of electrocution.

Exceeded: In 2001, we initiated nine press releases to warn the public of recalled products with a substantial risk of electrocution including light switches, extension cords, and battery chargers.

C-3. Video News Release (VNR)

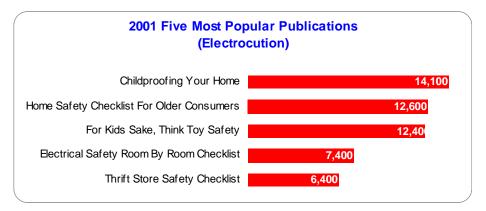
For at least one recalled product, work with the manufacturer of the recalled product to produce a VNR.

In 2001, we produced a VNR for the Recall Round-Up Campaign that included a warning about old electric hair dryers, in general, that do not have shock-protection devices in the plug and could cause electrocution when the hair dryers fall into water. Over 70 million television viewers saw this VNR.

C-4. Publications

Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 45,000 safety alerts, checklists and booklets.

Exceeded: In 2001, we responded to requests and distributed 80,000 publications that addressed electrocution/electric shock-related hazards. These publications are also available on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub_idx.html by topic, title, or category. The five most requested distributed publications are listed below.

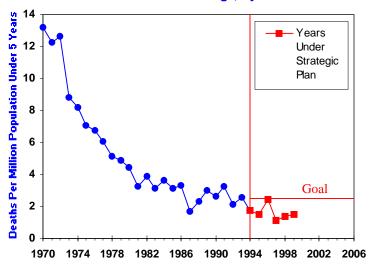




KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM POISONING HAZARDS

STRATEGIC GOAL: The rate of death from unintentional poisonings to children under 5 years old from drugs and other hazardous household substances will not increase beyond 2.5 deaths per million children from 1994 to 2006.

Death Rate to Children Under 5 Years From Unintentional Poisonings, by Year



THE HAZARD

Children can easily gain access to drugs and other hazardous household chemical substances that are not in child-resistant packaging. Before 1974, an average of 200 children under the age of 5 years died each year from poisonings by unintentional ingestion of these substances. In 1970, Congress enacted the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) requiring child-resistant packaging. Since the PPPA became law, deaths to children under 5 years of age have declined substantially to an average of about 25 deaths annually.

²Unintentional ingestions are those not supervised or administered by an adult.

While child poisoning deaths have been relatively low for a number of years, we have seen evidence that without continued surveillance, the death rate could increase. For example, when ibuprofen was granted over-the-counter status, child-resistant packaging was no longer required. This resulted in a substantial increase in ibuprofen ingestions.

There is further concern about unintentional poisonings to children because of the large number of poisoning incidents. In 2000, the 63 poison control centers participating in the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported over 1 million exposures involving children under five years of age to potential poisons and an estimated 74,000 product-related poisoning injuries to children under five seen in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. We estimate societal costs of almost \$2.5 billion for these emergency room-treated poisoning incidents, as well as the poisoning deaths that occur each year.

OUR PROGRESS

We continue to meet our strategic goal to maintain the low death rate of no more than 2.5 deaths per million children under 5 years old. The death rate for unintentional poisonings to children from drugs and other hazardous household substances for 1999, the last year when data was available, was 1.5 deaths per million children under 5 years old.

ANNUAL POISONING-RELATED GOALS FOR 2001

A. Safety Standards		1998	1999	2000	2001
A-1. Provide candidates for rulemaking	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	2	2	2	1

^{**}No goal established.

A-1. Candidates for Rulemaking



Prepare for Commission consideration, a notice of proposed rulemaking or a final rule for at least one hazardous substance for child-resistant packaging.

Completed: We finalized one rule for child-resistant packaging in 2001. CPSC issued a rule in August 2001 to maintain the requirement for child-resistant packaging when the Food and Drug Administration grants over-the-counter status to oral prescription drugs.

B. Compliance		1998	1999	2000	2001
B-1. Correct violations and initiate recalls	Goal	**	30	25	15*
	Actual	15	21	6	10

^{*}Projected goal -- the actual number of violations will depend on the mix of safety-related problems arising during the year. **No goal established.

B-1. Recalls and Corrective Actions

Pursue for recall or other corrective actions a projected 15 products that violate safety regulations.

The number of violations and recalls we identified and corrected was less than our estimate of 15 violations. However, it is agency policy to set numerical estimates, not firm targets, for violations and recalls. Because this activity addresses unforeseen safety issues, our numerical estimate is set each year based on historical data. The actual number of violations and recalls we identified in 2001 depended on the mix of safety-related problems that occurred during the year.

We pursued for recall or other corrective action 10 products that violated safety regulations for child-resistant packaging. Three of these resulted in recalls of bottles of nail primer and prescription drugs involving over 27,000 product units.

C. Consumer Information		1998	1999	2000	2001
C-1. Coordinate health and safety campaign	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	1	1	1	1
C-2. Issue press releases	Goal	**	**	1	3
	Actual	7	1	2	2
C-3. Produce VNR	Goal	**	1	1	1
	Actual	1	1	1	1
C.4. Respond to requests for publications	Goal	**	**	60,000	60,000
•	Actual	63,000	195,500*	155,000	173,000

^{*}Includes a one time effort to distribute publications to state and local users. **No goal established.

C-1. Health and Safety Campaign



Coordinate a health and safety campaign by partnering with the Poison Prevention Council and related organizations to promote child-resistant packaging and other poison prevention measures during National Poison Prevention Week.

Done: We continued to coordinate the annual observance of National Poison Prevention Week and the 2001 observance was the 40th. CPSC serves as the "secretariat" of the Poison Prevention Week Council, handling all of the print and audiovisual materials produced for this historic public health campaign. We issued a news release, and the Poison Prevention

Week Council paid for a video news release that was seen by nearly 5 million television viewers.

C-2. Press Releases

Issue 1 press release to remind consumers to use child-resistant packaging and take other steps to prevent poisonings and 2 press releases about recalls (as they are identified by CPSC's Compliance office).

In 2001, we initiated two press releases. One press release reminded consumers to use child-resistant packaging and to take other steps to prevent poisonings during National Poison Prevention Week and the other informed consumers of a recalled product that did not have child resistant closures. This performance goal was set at an approximate target level and the deviation from that level is slight. There was no effect on overall program or activity performance.

C-3. Video News Release (VNR)

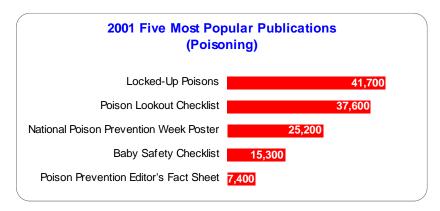
Produce a VNR on the hazards of unintentional poisonings to children.

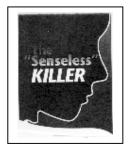
Done: We produced a video news release on the hazards of unintentional poisonings to children as part of National Poison Prevention Week. This VNR had a total potential viewing audience of over 4.5 million. A video clip is viewable on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/mpeg.html.

C-4. Publications

Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 60,000 checklists, booklets and other publications on preventing poisonings.

Exceeded: In 2001, we responded to requests and distributed 173,000 publications that addressed the prevention of child poisonings. These publications are also available on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub_idx.html by topic, title, or category. The five most requested distributed publications are listed below.

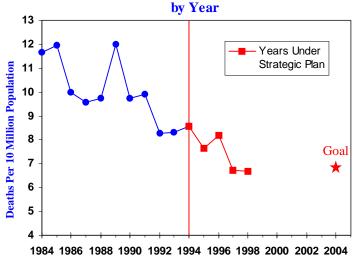




KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

STRATEGIC GOAL: Reduce the rate of death from carbon monoxide poisoning by 20 percent from 1994 to 2004.





Note: Data is for deaths not related to fire or automobiles.

THE HAZARD

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that has no smell, color or taste -- truly a "senseless" killer. Burning any fuel, such as gas, oil, wood, or coal produces this gas, so that any fuel-burning appliance is a potential CO source. Symptoms at higher concentrations in the blood include cognitive impairment, loss of consciousness, coma, and death.

There were 180 people who died from unintentional CO poisoning- related incidents, excluding incidents involving auto exhaust and fires, at a societal cost of almost \$1 billion in 1998, the latest year for which data are available. Children under 15 years of age accounted for about 5 percent of the deaths. Because some symptoms of moderate CO poisoning may mimic common illnesses such as influenza or colds, there may be a high incidence of missed initial diagnoses. Not only are victims frequently unaware of exposure to CO, but health care

providers may not suspect, or check for, CO poisoning. While some symptoms of CO poisoning are reversible, delayed neurological effects can develop following severe poisonings, especially those involving prolonged unconsciousness. Prompt medical attention is important to reduce the risk of permanent damage.

Most consumer product-related CO poisoning deaths are associated with the use of heating systems. Other consumer products associated with CO poisoning deaths include charcoal grills, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, and fuel-burning camping equipment. Problems with chimneys, flues, or vents connected to fuel-burning products have often been mentioned in the fatal scenarios.

OUR PROGRESS

Deaths from carbon monoxide poisonings have decreased about 24 percent over the past 11 years, from almost 240 deaths in 1988 to 180 deaths in 1998, the latest year for which data are available. We used a number of interventions to help reduce these deaths including working with industry to encourage the development of new products to protect consumers from CO poisonings; working with industry to develop a voluntary performance standard for CO alarms; and warning the public about CO poisoning through information campaigns.

In 1997 and 1998, the CO poisoning death rate was below our strategic goal. We decided to retain our original goal through 2002 for two reasons. First, staff believes that it is too soon to tell if the reduction in the CO poisoning rate is a stable trend or simply due to year-to-year fluctuations in the data. Second, beginning in January 1999, there was a major change in the way deaths are classified in the United States. Preliminary information provided by NCHS suggested that the trend analysis for CO poisonings generally may be unaffected by changed in the classification of deaths. While these results are encouraging, we cannot be sure that the performance data for CO poisoning is unaffected until more specific analyses are completed.

By 2003, after we examine the stability of the trend in deaths and determine how the coding changes affect the data, the Commission will decide whether to set a strategic goal to maintain the current reduction in the death rate, reduce the target further, or focus in other areas.

ANNUAL CARBON MONOXIDE-RELATED GOALS FOR 2001

A. Safety Standards				2000	2001
A-1. Send recommendations to voluntary standards organizations	Goal	**	2	2	1
	Actual	3	2	2	1
A-2. Complete hazard analysis/data collection/testing activities	Goal	**	3	2	1
•	Actual	2	2	2	0

^{**}No goal established.

A-1. Prepare and send to voluntary standards organizations recommendations to strengthen one voluntary standard.

CO Alarms (Status Indicator)

180 CO deaths



Staff will explore the feasibility of requiring CO alarms to incorporate in their design an indicator to let the consumer know that the sensor functions properly. If appropriate, staff will develop and submit a recommendation to the voluntary standard organizations for such a requirement.

Done: CPSC staff met with the Underwriters Laboratories Ad Hoc Working Group on CO alarms (UL 2034) to discuss a number of issues concerning the performance of CO alarms. Staff has had a concern that CO alarms do not alert the consumer if the sensor element of the alarm becomes inoperable, resulting in a loss of CO protection to the consumer. A number of alternatives were discussed, including a mechanism to monitor the performance of the sensor, or the use of a timing circuit that would cause the alarm to go into an audible trouble signal at a predetermined age, before end of life failure of the sensor. It was determined that it would be best to require an audible end-of-life signal (audible trouble signal). UL has agreed to propose this at the next UL 2034 Standard Technical Panel (STP) meeting in 2002.

A-2. Complete one testing and data collection activity on:

Camp Heaters

18 deaths



Complete laboratory tests of camping heaters to determine if new products meet the new CO emission requirements in the recently revised voluntary standard.

Will complete in 2002: Testing of camping heaters for the Office of Compliance, to determine if the products' CO emissions contributed to the deaths of several people, took priority over the 2001 project efforts and impacted the start of the camping heater project in 2001. Project efforts began near the end of 2001 and are expected to be completed by July 2002. Data from several of the heaters tested for the Office of Compliance will be used to supplement the data being obtained from the project effort.

B. Compliance		1998	1999	2000	2001
B-1. Initiate recalls and corrective actions	Goal	**	4	2	2*
	Actual	4	0	2	6

^{*}Projected goal -- the actual number of violations will depend on the mix of safety-related problems arising during the year. **No goal established.

Identify and act on products that present a risk of death from CO poisoning through:

B-1. Recalls and Corrective Actions

Pursue for recall or other corrective actions a projected two products that present a substantial risk of death from CO poisoning.

Exceeded: We pursued for recall or other corrective actions six products that presented a substantial risk of death from CO poisoning. Of these, there were four recalls involving almost 11,000 product units such as gas furnaces and gas water heaters.

C. Consumer Information		1998	1999	2000	2001
C-1. Conduct public education efforts	Goal	**	2	2	2#
	Actual	2	2	1	1
C-2. Alert the public of recalls through press	Goal	**	3	1	3
releases	Actual	1	1	0	3
C.3. Respond to consumer requests for publications	Goal	**	50,000	50,000	50,000
	Actual	51,000	72,000*	53,000	66,500

^{*}Includes a one time effort to distribute publications to state and local users. *This goal was for 1 effort; the Nationwide Outreach was deferred in the 2000 Performance Report. **No goal established.

C-1. Conduct one public education effort.

CO Safety Awareness

Issue a press release to alert consumers about the sources of CO poisoning and the means to prevent and detect CO buildup in homes.

Done: CPSC issued several news releases addressing carbon monoxide hazards, including those that warned winter storm and earthquake victims not to use gasoline-powered generators indoors; urged seasonal furnace inspections; recommended a CO alarm in every home; announced a recall of water heaters that posed a CO hazard; and offered charcoal grill safety tips.

Nationwide Outreach

From 2000 Plan: Through the State Partners Program, develop and implement a public health campaign with all 50 states to inform consumers, health and medical professionals about the hazards of CO poisoning. In this campaign, promote CO alarms manufactured to the revised Underwriters Laboratories standard and the revised International Approval Service standard. Hold press conferences and media events in 25 locations nationwide.

Deferred: In mid-1999, CPSC staff learned that some CO alarms meeting the latest requirements of the voluntary standard failed to alarm when they should have. As a result, those alarms were recalled, and testing was undertaken to determine why the alarms were not working and what was needed to correct the problem. Concerned that other alarms on the market might also fail to alarm, CPSC staff decided that it was not feasible to embark on a large outreach program until we are sure that all CO alarms on the market are working properly.

Staff began a testing program to determine whether other CO alarm models were subject to the same problem. Results of the testing showed that CO alarms/detectors appear to be reliable when new. We continue to test CO alarms and are working with UL to include requirements for enhanced features that will improve the long-term effectiveness of these alarms. The nationwide outreach program has been deferred until the staff is satisfied with the long-term requirements in the UL standard. When staff is confident that products that meet the improved requirements for long-term effectiveness are available, CPSC will initiate the nationwide outreach program.

Alert the public to the hazards of CO poisoning deaths through:

C-2. Press Releases

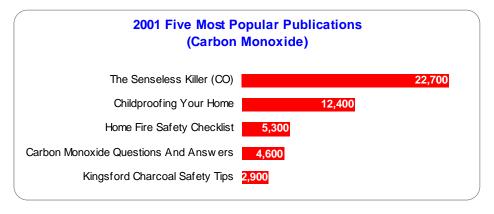
For recalled products presenting a substantial risk of death from CO poisoning, initiate an estimated three press releases to warn the public.

Done: We initiated three press releases to warn the public of recalled products that presented a substantial risk of CO poisoning including gas ranges and water heaters.

C-3. Publications

Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 50,000 checklists, booklets, and safety alerts warning about CO poisoning hazards.

Exceeded: In 2001, we responded to requests and distributed 66,500 publications that addressed CO poisoning hazards. These publications are also available on our web site at http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pub_idx.html by topic, title, or category. The five most requested distributed publications are listed below.







STRATEGIC GOAL: Increase in consumer awareness of CPSC safety information through 2006 by:

- Increasing contacts to CPSC's web site;
- Maintaining the capability to respond to the high number of hotline calls for safety information; and
- Increasing the reach of the Commission's publication, the *Consumer Product Safety Review* (*Review*).

THE PROGRAM

Part of our mission is to assist consumers in evaluating the safety of consumer products. Our communication network is two-way: we inform the public about the safe use of consumer products and recalls of unsafe products. We also receive reports from the public about unsafe products, as well as inquiries about product recalls.

In recent years, the way the American public communicates has changed dramatically. Consumers have turned increasingly to the Internet to obtain the information they want. In response to this demand, we developed a web site and improved our hotline to provide safety information more efficiently and effectively to those requesting it. To reach both health and safety professionals and the public, CPSC created a quarterly publication, the Consumer Product Safety Review (*Review*), and provided access to it through the agency's web site.

A. Web Site		1998	1999	2000	2001
A-1. Increase in visits	Goal	**	500,000	3,300,000	4,000,000
	Actual	500,000	2,000,000	3,700,000	6,300,000

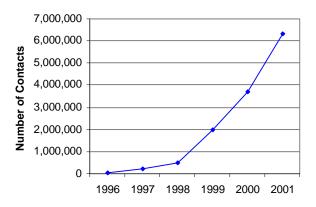
^{**}No goal established.

A-1. Increase web site contacts.

Web site visits

Exceeded: The number of users of the web site has grown rapidly from about 200,000 visits in 1997 to over 6.3 million visits in 2001. One satisfied customer, who accessed a recall notice on the web site, said, "I acquired this product as a handme-down. Your information possibly prevented me from having a potential fire or other damage. Keep up the good work!" Recent improvements continue to attract users to our

Web Site Contacts by Year



web site from both consumers and industry. For example, by the close of 2001, the public was able to:

- Link to CPSC from popular Internet auction sites, such as eBay.com and Amazon.com auctions in order to check on the possible recall of products being auctioned;
- Search for information on recalled products by product type or company;
- Access safety information in a Spanish language section;
- Access the web site using closed-captioning and transcripts for videos for those with disabilities;
- Use an automated on-line form for subscribing to CPSC's e-mail recall subscription list with the capability to subscribe to e-mail lists containing only the content desired;
- Access video clips of news releases;
- Search for publications; and

 View a new design for our home page and new menus that help make important safety information even more accessible.

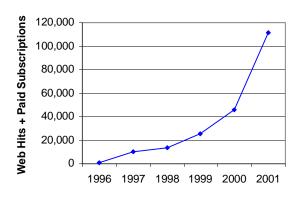
B. Consumer Product Safety Review (Review)		1998	1999	2000	2001
B-1. Increase the reach of the <i>Review</i>	Goal	**	14,000	41,000	50,000
	Actual	14,000	25,600	45,900	111,400

B-1. Increase the reach of the *Review*, the Commission's quarterly publication on safety issues through subscriptions and web site visits.

Review contacts

Exceeded: The readership of the *Review* increased from base year 1997 at about 10,000 to over 111,000 in 2001. The increase in readership has come via our web site, which had a 1,203 percent increase since 1997. In contrast, paid subscriptions declined 61 percent during that same time period, due largely to free access to the *Review* via our web site. We continued promoting the availability of the electronic version of the *Review* on our site, rather than soliciting and maintaining paid subscriptions, which are costly.

Readership of Review by Year



C. Hotline		1998	1999	2000	2001
C-1. Maintain the capacity to respond to calls	Goal	**	250,000	350,000	350,000
	Actual	300,000	400,000	200,000	200,000

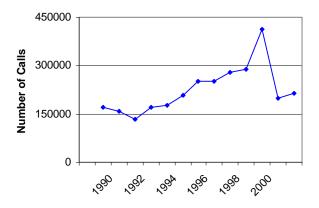
^{**}No goal established.

C-1. Hotline- Maintain the capacity to respond to the high number of hotline calls for safety information.

Hotline Capacity

The hotline maintained the capacity to respond to the high number of calls from the public. While the actual number of calls received (200,000) was lower than expected (350,000), we responded to all of the calls we received. The flexibility of the hotline equipment and hotline staffing arrangements allow us to respond according to the number of inquiries received. As demands for information increase, we can increase the number of lines and operators available to respond effectively to those needs. This was demonstrated by our success in 1999, the year staff appeared on the various network television shows including the Oprah Winfrey show. With current equipment and staffing arrangements, we were able to respond to 400,000 calls when only 250,000 had been expected.

Hotline Calls by Year



There appears to be a change in how consumers access our safety information. The number of visits to CPSC's web site continues to grow exponentially compared to the hotline. In addition, e-mails from the public, which are also handled by hotline personnel, have increased over 960 percent from about 1,150 e-mails in 1997 to over 12,200 in 2001. The good news is that through our communication system, we are reaching more consumers with more information.

INDUSTRY SERVICES



STRATEGIC GOAL: Maintain success with the timeliness and usefulness of the Fast-Track Product Recall and the Small Business Ombudsman programs for industry through 2006.

THE PROGRAM

The Commission's Compliance program ensures that firms comply with the laws, regulations and safety standards that protect consumers from hazardous and defective products. When a violation of a safety standard is found or a defective product is identified, we work cooperatively and quickly with industry to obtain an appropriate corrective action, which can include recall of the hazardous product.

We administer two programs to assist industry: the Fast-Track Product Recall (Fast-Track) and Small Business Ombudsman programs. Under the Fast-Track program, a firm that reports a hazardous product and recalls it quickly avoids an agency staff preliminary determination that their product presents a substantial risk of injury. Other advantages of this program for industry include reductions in paperwork, red tape, and legal expenses related to the recall of potentially defective products. For CPSC, advantages of this program include removing hazardous products from consumers and the marketplace more quickly. To date, over 600 firms have participated in the program, resulting in about 900 product recalls involving over 100 million product units. The Fast-Track program has been cited as outstanding by both government and private organizations.

With the Small Business Ombudsman program, we help small businesses comply more easily with product safety guidelines and manufacture safer products. This program provides firms with a single point of contact that expedites a clearly understandable response from our technical staff. To date, we have helped over 2,000 small businesses that called our Ombudsman. Our program was cited in the National Ombudsman Report to Congress on Regulatory Fairness as one of the best programs in the Federal government.

A. Response to industry		1998	1999	2000	2001
A-1. Fast-Track timeliness standards met	Goal	**	80%	90%	90%
	Actual	90%	95%	94%	95%
A-2. Small Business Ombudsman timeliness standards met	Goal	**	80%	80%	80%
	Actual	60%	84%	81%	79%

^{**}No goal established.

Maintain the timeliness of response to industry

A-1. Fast-Track

Complete a technical review and initiate a recall within 20 days 90 percent of the time.

Exceeded: During 2001, there were 205 recalls involving almost 32 million product units and 163 distinct firms under the Fast-Track program. A review of the records for the Fast-Track program revealed that recalls were initiated within 20 business days 95 percent of the time.

A-2. Ombudsman

Respond to requests from small businesses through the CPSC Small Business Ombudsman within three business days 80 percent of the time.

Substantively met: CPSC staff responded to and offered guidance to about 60 small business in 2001. A review of the Small Business Ombudsman program's records found that requests were responded to within three business days 79 percent of the time.

Institute appropriate improvements based on assessments by industry in 1999:

B-1. Fast-Track

In 1999, we asked participants in the Fast Track program to tell us how it could be improved. Based on our review of the comments, we concluded that the Fast Track program as it is currently constituted requires no substantial changes. In 2000, we will continue to monitor industry's response to the Fast Track program and in 2001 make any changes that will enhance our success with its timeliness and usefulness.

Done: In 2001, we again surveyed participants in the Fast Track program. Ninety-three percent of the respondents agree that the program should be continued. We did not make any changes to the Fast Track Program in 2001. The number of Fast Track reports has been increasing each year and the program is running relatively smoothly while maintaining timeliness and usefulness. As the number of Fast Track reports increases, it

may become more difficult to meet the timeliness goal.

B-2. Ombudsman

In 1999, we asked participants in the Ombudsman program to tell us how it could be improved. In 2000, we will adopt appropriate suggestions and pilot test these changes. In 2001, we will assess industry's response to the changes and further assess our success with the timeliness and usefulness of the program.

Done: In 2001, we again conducted a survey of participants in the Ombudsman program. Ninety percent of the respondents agreed that their call was responded to in a timely manner and 93 percent agreed that the Small Business Ombudsman program should be continued.

C-1. Develop "plain language" guides to regulations:

Regulations

In 2000, we plan to develop brief guides for 15 of the 25 CPSC regulations where most of our compliance efforts have been targeted so that industry can quickly and easily understand how to comply. In 2001, we will develop brief guides for the remaining 10 regulations. These guides include descriptions of the purpose of the regulation and the regulation's requirements.

Done: We developed 9 guides for 10 regulations so that industry can quickly and easily understand how to comply. These guides are accessible through our web site under the Regulatory Summaries in Plain Language subheading at http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/corrective.html and provide a summary of requirements of various regulations for consumer products such as bicycles and bicycle helmets.



CONSUMER SATISFACTION WITH CPSC SERVICES

STRATEGIC GOAL: Sustain the high level of satisfaction of consumers with the hotline, Clearinghouse, and the states with CPSC's State Partnership Program at 90 percent or better through the year 2006.

THE PROGRAM

We alert the public to important safety information through a variety of sources including the hotline, our web site (www.cpsc.gov), the National Injury Information Clearinghouse, our field State Partners Program, and by responding to individual e-mail messages received at specially established addresses.

The hotline has the capacity to respond to a high number of calls from the public due to the flexibility of equipment and staffing arrangements. As demands for information increase, we can increase the number of lines and operators available to respond effectively to those needs. The Clearinghouse provides data to the public in response to 3,500 requests each year. It also alerts manufacturers to potential hazards associated with their products, providing them with consumer complaints, reported incidents and incident investigations involving their products. The State Partners Program, using limited CPSC funds and CPSC-developed safety information, brings product safety services to consumers through cooperative programs between our field staff and state and local governments. The program extends CPSC's reach throughout the Nation.

A. Hotline Services		1998	1999	2000	2001
A-1. 30 seconds or less to reach a hotline representative	Goal	**	**	90%	90%
	Actual			87%	93%
A-2. Respond to after-hours voicemail messages the next	Goal	**	**	85%	85%
business day	Actual	76%*	90%*	92%	79%
A-3. Process product incident reports within 8 working	Goal	**	**	85%	85%
hours	Actual	74%	79%	96%	99%
A-4. Maintain performance contract at designated level	Goal	**	**	85%	85%
	Actual				

^{*}Estimated from random samples. --Data not available. **No goal established.

Maintain consumer satisfaction with hotline services through:

A-1. Hotline

Maintain the time of 30 seconds or less to reach a hotline representative 90 percent of the time.

Exceeded: CPSC's hotline has an automated system that allows a caller to press three-digit numbers to hear a wide variety of recorded safety messages about consumer products. Additionally, the caller may press a three-digit number to connect to a hotline staff member during normal working hours. We maintained the time of 30 seconds or less that a caller reached a hotline representative 93 percent of the time.

A-2. Voicemail

Respond to after-hours voicemail messages the next business day 85 percent of the time.

The hotline is available to consumers to hear the most up-to-date and easy-to-understand recorded information on product safety recalls and consumer products, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The hotline staff is available between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M Eastern time, weekdays, except holidays. When hotline representatives are unavailable, consumers may choose to leave a voice mail message. We responded to these voicemail messages the next business day 79 percent of the time.

The volume of voicemail messages has more than doubled from about 2,600 in 2000 to almost 5,400 in 2001. This increase in voicemail along with a 30 percent increase in emails received, made it necessary to automate our tracking process to relieve the increased burden on staff. A database application to better track and respond to these calls was implemented and resulted in a steady improvement from the first to the fourth quarter of 2001, from 73 percent to 85 percent of the voicemail messages being responded to by the following business day.

We expect to be on target in 2002.

A-3. *Incident Reports*

Process consumer product incident reports within 8 working hours 85 percent of the time.

Exceeded: Consumers may make a complaint of an unsafe product or product-related injury through the hotline. We then send a copy of the report to the consumer for confirmation of the information recorded by the hotline staff. We reviewed and processed these consumer product incident reports within 8 working hours 99 percent of the time.

A-4. Customer Service

Maintain our innovative hotline contract administration system to provide incentives for achieving a quarterly contract performance level rating of at least 85 percent. Higher ratings result from effective contract management, timely response to consumers, timely, thorough responses to e-mail requests and consumer incident reports, and other performance measures.

CPSC's hotline contract includes a requirement to meet established customer service standards as a part of the scope of the work. Due to limited resources we were not able to accurately measure this performance goal. The current contract will be reviewed in 2003 to determine how to address this issue.

B. Clearinghouse		1998	1999	2000	2001
B-1. Hotline incident reports mailed for verification	Goal	**	**	95%	95%
within 2 days	Actual	90%	100%	99%	100%
B-2. Reports to manufacturers sent within 48 days	Goal	**	**	90%	90%
	Actual			90%*	
B-3. Requests acknowledged within 5 days	Goal	**	**	95%	95%
	Actual	84%	94%	95%	97%

^{*}Estimate based on random sample. --Data not available. **No goal established.

Maintain consumer satisfaction with Clearinghouse services through:

B-1. *Incident Report Verification*

Mail requests for verification of information in product incident reports to consumers within 2 business days after their reports are received in the Clearinghouse 95 percent of the time.

Exceeded: After the hotline processes a complaint about an unsafe product or incident, the Clearinghouse receives it. The Clearinghouse mails the report to the consumer for verification that the report is accurate and complete. In 2001, we mailed verification information to consumers within two business days

after receiving their reports of unsafe products from the hotline 100 percent of the time.

B-2. *Manufacturers' Alert*

Provide manufacturers with copies of <u>verified</u> incidents and investigations in which their products are named within 48 business days of receiving the report in the Clearinghouse 90 percent of the time.

The Clearinghouse alerts manufacturers to potential hazards associated with their products, providing them with consumer complaints, reported incidents and incident investigations involving their products. In 2001, because there were staff changes and database programming changes, further analysis is required to determine the percentage of all investigations and incidents mailed in which a manufacturer was mentioned. We will complete this work in 2002.

B-3. Customer Service

Acknowledge requests for information in writing within 5 business days.

Met: The Clearinghouse provides data to the public in response to 3,500 requests each year. In keeping with our published customer service timeliness standards, we acknowledged <u>and</u> provided the requested information within 5 business days 97 percent of the time.

C. State Partners Program		1998	1999	2000	2001
C-1. Recall Round-Up in all 50 states	Goal	**	50	50	50
	Actual	50	54*	54*	54*
C-2. Conduct product safety activities in the states	Goal	**	**	50	50
	Actual	20	50	82	140

^{*}Includes territories and the District of Columbia.

Maintain consumer satisfaction with the State Partners Program's services through:

C-1. Recall Round-Up

Develop and implement a Recall Round-Up program with our State Partners in all 50 states to encourage the repair, return, or destruction of selected consumer products not meeting safety standards.

Exceeded: In 2001, we partnered with nearly 2,000 fire departments around the nation on CPSC's successful federal-state program, the fifth annual Recall Round-Up. We developed and implemented the program with our state partners in all 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia to encourage the repair, return, or destruction of selected

consumer products not meeting safety standards. We informed 70 million consumers of dangerous recalled products that could be in their homes. State and local officials, health and safety agencies, and national and grass roots organizations assisted in getting out our important safety message.

C-2. Product Safety Activities

Conduct 50 product safety activities including media events, congressional events, education seminars and safety consultations, through the Recall Round-up campaign.

Exceeded: We conducted 140 product safety activities including media events, congressional events, education seminars and safety consultations, through the Recall Round-Up campaign.

C-3. Customer Service

Implement appropriate suggestions for improvements from the 1999 customer service survey.

Done in 2000: Based on responses to the 1999 customer service survey, we decided to increase the effectiveness of our consumer outreach. We did this by identifying and commissioning 61 new product safety-oriented state and local partners.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

This section provides a summary of the evaluations we identified in our 2001 performance plan³, as required in the Office of Management and Budget's Circular No. A-11. We conduct two types of evaluations: yearly tracking of performance measures such as injuries, deaths, and timeliness, and studies of the effectiveness of CPSC activities, such as injury and death reductions associated with specific products and customer satisfaction surveys.

A. Reducing head injuries to children

Playground Injuries

In support of CPSC's efforts to address playground hazards, staff conducted a special study of playground equipment-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms from November 1998 through October 1999. Staff also reviewed data on playground-related deaths reported to CPSC from January 1990 through August 2000. Highlights of this analysis include the following:

- In 1999, an estimated 205,850 playground equipment-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. This adjusted estimate translates to a rate of about 7.5 injuries per 10,000 U.S. population in 1999. Age-specific incidence was about 29.1 injuries per 10,000 children younger than 5 years, 34.8 per 10,000 children 5-14 years, and 0.6 per 10,000 population 15 years and older.
- About 34 percent of all playground-related injuries involved the head and face. About 15 percent of these injuries were potentially serious (i.e., concussions, internal injuries, and fractures).
- Overall, about three-fourths (79 percent) of the injuries that occurred on public equipment involved falls, primarily to the surface below the equipment. On home equipment, 81 percent of the injuries were associated with falls. All of the hospitalized injuries (3 percent of the total) resulted from falls.
- Potentially serious head injuries accounted for about 5 percent of all surface fall-related injuries.
- In locations where public equipment was installed, almost 80 percent had protective surfacing under the equipment, most often bark mulch or wood chips. In contrast, only about nine percent of home locations had protective surfacing, most often sand. Dirt and grass were, by far, the most prevalent surfaces present under home playground equipment.

³There was a typographical error in the 2001 Annual Performance Plan. The Hotline, Clearinghouse, and State Partners program evaluations will be done in 2002.

- From 1990 through August 2000, CPSC received reports of 147 deaths to children younger than age 15 that involved playground equipment. Of the 147 deaths, 31 involved falls. Of the fall-related deaths, about three-fourths involved a head injury. In the 128 incidents for which location was reported, 90 (70 percent) occurred in home locations and 38 (30 percent) occurred in public locations.
- Comparison of data from the current study to data from a 1988 CPSC study of playground hazards revealed that falls continue to account for the majority of injuries. Injuries associated with public equipment continue to outnumber those on home equipment, and injuries in school settings now appear to be greater that in public parks. Climber-related injuries have increased in public locations, perhaps because of the greater number of multi-use climbing structures.
- Future safety efforts to address playground hazards should include activities to continue to promote the importance of appropriate protective surfacing in both home and public locations.

Tinsworth, Deborah K., McDonald, Joyce E. (April 2001). *Special Study: Injuries and Deaths Associated with Children's Playground Equipment*. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C.

B. Maintaining the low death rate from unintentional poisonings (PPPA)

Tracking of child poisoning deaths

CPSC has continued to track drugs and other hazardous household product-related pediatric poisoning fatalities for children under 5 years old in the U.S. The most recent data from the National Center for Health Statistics is for 1999. In 1972, 216 children under 5 years old died from unintentional poisonings from household substances. These deaths have decreased by 87 percent to 29 deaths in 1999.

Memorandum from Robin L. Ingle to Mary Ann Danello, Ph.D. (February 2002). *Pediatric Poisoning Fatalities from 1972 through 1999*. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C.

Evaluation of changes to unintentional poisonings data from the revised coding system

In 2001 staff completed a review of the changes in the classification of the external cause of injury from the 9th to the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). This review took advantage of a translation file developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and estimated the expected impact of these changes on the number of deaths reported in different major hazard patterns. The hazard patterns were generally consistent with the framework developed by the International Collaborative Effort on Injury Statistics (ICE) (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ice/matrix0611.pdf)

The results of this initial study suggested that trend analyses within the hazard patterns covered by the CPSC Strategic Plan may generally be unaffected by the changes in coding associated with the change from the 9th to the 10th revision of the ICD. While the results of our initial review are encouraging, we cannot be sure that the coding changes do not affect our performance data until more specific analyses are completed for each product area.

As staff review the data collected under 10th revision in 1999 and subsequent years, the assumptions for each performance goal will be reviewed and the impact of the ICD change on the computation of CPSC estimates used in the trend analysis will be assessed for that performance goal.

Staff will be using the results of a National Center for Health Statistics study to be released in spring 2002. This study will rely on expert double coding of death certificates from 1996 using the 9th and 10th ICD to develop more precise ratios for hazard patterns within the ICE framework.

Staff will use the information from the CPSC study and the NCHS study in each hazard area as they compare estimates for 1999 (coded under the 10th revision) with prior year estimates coded under ICD 9. Specific adjustment factors will be computed, if necessary, for each CPSC estimate.

C. Reducing Fire-Related Deaths

Evaluation of changes to fire-related death data from the revised coding system

This evaluation was covered in B. above.

D. Reducing CO Poisoning Deaths

Evaluation of changes to CO-poisoning data from the revised coding system

This evaluation was covered in B. above.

E. Reducing Electrocution Deaths

Evaluation of changes to electrocutions data from the revised coding system

This evaluation was covered in B. above.

F. Assessments by Industry

Fast-Track

Staff conducted confidential telephone interviews with randomly selected company representatives who recalled their products using the Fast Track program. Ninety-seven percent of the respondents agreed that the compliance officer that they worked with was courteous and knowledgeable. Ninety-three percent of the respondents also agreed that the Fast Track program should be continued.

Ombudsman

Staff conducted confidential telephone interviews with representatives of small business who contacted the Small Business Ombudsman office. About 90 percent of the respondents agreed that their call was responded to in a timely manner. Ninety-three percent of the respondents agreed that the program should be continued.